

Waste Not

The Weekly Reporter
for rational
resource management

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A publication of Work On Waste USA, Inc., 82 Judson, Canton, NY 13617 315-379-9200

April 19, 1988

STOP PRESS: A MAJOR NEW STUDY BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE INDICATES THAT VIETNAM VETERANS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE HAVE A HIGHER INCIDENCE OF CANCER, BIRTH DEFECTS, LIVER DAMAGE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE, CARDIOVASCULAR DETERIORATION AND DEGENERATION OF THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM. According to Dr. Peter Montague who reviewed the study in the latest issue of Hazardous Waste News # 73, (P.O. Box 3541, Princeton, NJ 08543-3541): "Advocates of mass burn incinerators and other dioxin-producing facilities can no longer claim lack of evidence that dioxin harms humans. There is now tangible cause for concern about serious effects of dioxin on humans." The report can be obtained from Dr. Richard Albanese, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Human Systems Division, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas 78235-5301, tel: 512-536-3884.

THE ASH PROBLEM: PART 2. The usual response from pro-incineration officials to the fact that ash samples frequently fail the EPA extraction procedure toxicity (EP Tox) test for lead, cadmium or both, is that the test simulates the ACID leachate of a regular landfill, but they intend to put the ash into a MONOFILL where it will not come into contact with acid creating trash. They correctly point out that many metals are less soluble under neutral or slightly alkaline conditions. However, the combined ash from modern incinerators is SO ALKALINE, because of excess lime from the acid scrubbers (pH frequently exceeds 12), that water alone will leach out toxic levels of LEAD. Vogg and coworkers in Germany showed that water could leach out 40% of the lead from the fly ash plus lime reaction product, some 4 times more than could be leached with dilute sulfuric acid at pH 4 (Waste Management and Research, V. 4, pg. 65-74, 1986). This result was confirmed in the U.S.A. when 20 samples of combined ash from the new Signal incinerator in Claremont, N.H. (fitted with an acid scrubber and baghouse) were tested with water instead of the dilute acid used in the regular EP Tox test, and 19 out of the 20 failed for lead. A summary of the results are available from Waste Not (please include a SASE).

ON FEBRUARY 5, 1981 EPA STATED ITS OPINION THAT ALL LANDFILLS WILL EVENTUALLY LEAK:
"...Manmade permeable materials that might be used for liners or covers are subject to eventual deterioration and although this might not occur for 10, 20 or more years, it eventually occurs and, when it does, leachate will migrate out of the facility." Federal Register, pg. 11128. On July 26, 1982, EPA stated: "...Some have argued liners are devices that provide a perpetual seal against any migration from a waste management unit. EPA has concluded that the more reasonable assumption, based on what is known about the pressures placed on liners over time, is that any liner will begin to leak eventually." Federal Register, pg. 32284-32285. For a fuller account please refer to Hazardous Waste News #37, August 10, 1987.

"...IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY (NY) an eyewitness account has identified children riding motor bikes on top of the Sprout Brook ashfill. Independent test results also have identified extremely high lead levels - approximately 500 times the allowable federal hazardous waste level - in the surface water that has collected on top of the buried ash. As much as 2,000 tons of ash has piled up on a parking lot at the incinerator site in GLEN COVE (Long Island, NY) without regard for the potential airborne or water-borne transport of the contaminated ash particles. For years, this ash was dumped directly over Long Island's sole source of drinking water in the Smithtown landfill, a site that is not designed, constructed, maintained or permitted to hold hazardous wastes." NEW YORK PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP "Incinerator Ash Alert", 9 Murray Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10007, Tel: 212-349-6460.

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ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK. The Board of Supervisors voted on April 4, 1988 to reject siting an ash landfill for bottom ash only from the proposed 400 tpd FOSTER WHEELER incinerator for Hudson Falls. The deal offered Essex was that the fly ash would be sent to Canada (when asked where in Canada, there was no answer) and the bottom ash would be disposed of in Essex. By rejecting the ash landfill Essex County bowed out of a tri-county regional incinerator (other counties: Warren & Washington). In Washington County, on March 15, 1988 the pro-incinerator Mayor and Trustees of Hudson Falls were defeated on the incinerator issue and a complete new set of village officers were elected who are opposed to the proposed incinerator. Contact: Gardner Congdon, 61 Hudson Street, South Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801.

VERMONT. "VICON RECOVERY SYSTEMS was denied a zoning permit for its proposed ash landfill Wednesday night...the Zoning Board cited the possible negative impact of the ash landfill on the nearby river (Battenkill) and on the local road system..." Rutland Herald, 2-4-88. VICON operates the 240 tpd incinerator in Rutland and as of April 10, 1988 is trucking the ash to Western N.Y. after signing an agreement with the C.I.D. landfill. (See more on C.I.D. landfill below.)

ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY has paid \$1.5 million to Eastern Waste Inc. to reserve space in three Western N.Y. landfills to accept 217,500 tons of ash and 16,000 tons of unprocessable waste from the proposed BFI-AMERICAN REF FUEL 2,250 tpd incinerator for Newark. The IRONBOUND COMMITTEE AGAINST TOXIC WASTES is in litigation with Essex County over the fact that the ash disposal contract never went out to bid and that, among other criteria, the contract has severe problems as the permits for two of the proposed landfills run out in 1990. Waste Not plans to do an in-depth report on the proposed Newark incinerator. For more information about Newark contact Arnold Cohen at the IRONBOUND COMMITTEE, 95 Fleming Ave, Newark, NJ 07105, tel 201-589-4668. Here are some brief details on the proposed landfills for Newark's ash: C.I.D. LANDFILL, Chaffee, N.Y. (Erie County) has a 2 foot liner of compacted clay. Their permits run out in Dec. 1990. According to EPA C.I.D. landfill is situated on top of the sole source aquifer for more than 50% of the drinking water for the towns of Freedom and Yorkshire and part of 16 other towns. MODERN LANDFILL, Model City, N.Y. (Niagara County) is lined with 4 feet of clay. ORLEANS SANITARY LANDFILL, Albion, N.Y. (Orleans County) permits run out Sept. 24, 1990. They have submitted requests for an expansion to the landfill. They are not permitted to accept ash from mass-burn incinerators.

"GREENPEACE REPORT ON THE DIOXIN LEVELS IN THE SOIL OF THE COMMUNITY NEAR PHILADELPHIA'S N.W. INCINERATOR AND IN THE INCINERATOR ASH" published Feb. 29, 1988, is available from Ben Gordon, GREENPEACE, 1017 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL 606607. Please send a SASE with 45¢ postage.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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*A publication of
Work On Waste USA,
a non-profit corporation dedicated to the
promotion of sound resource
management policy.*

Annual Subscription Rate: \$25.

Students & Seniors: \$15

Consultants &

for-profit organizations: \$100.

*Letters, articles and calls from the public
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Paul & Ellen Connett, Editors
82 Judson Street
Canton, New York 13617
(315)379-9200

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