

ASH GETS "SPECIAL" TREATMENT IN WASHINGTON D.C. As the U.S. Congress is grappling with the incinerator ash issue Greenpeace has revealed the astounding information that the ash from the Washington D.C. trash incinerator is being disposed of on the grounds of St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital. "Saint Elizabeth's, called Saint E's by local residents, is one of the oldest and largest federal psychiatric hospitals in the U.S.", Greenpeace, V. 13, # 3, May/June, 1988, pg. 6. The 1,000 tpd D.C. incinerator was built in 1972 by FLYNN & EMRICK and is operated by the D.C. Public Works Department. WASTE NOT asked Mr. Whitney of Saint E's Office Facility Support why the hospital was taking the incinerator ash. He replied: "So they can get rid of it." Mr. Whitney said they have been dumping the ash on the grounds of Saint E's for 7-8 years and that the EPA has been testing the ash on a fairly regular basis for dioxin. When asked if Saint E's have concerns about the ash disposal, Mr. Whitney replied that the concerns centered on the odor of the topsoil, composed of sewer sludge, that was placed on some of the ash. They have stopped receiving the sewer sludge soil because of the odor.

NIAGARA FALLS INCINERATOR DIOXIN EMISSION MEASURED AGAIN. In January 1986 New York State reported dioxin and furan test results for the refuse incinerator run by Occidental Chemical Corp. in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Results were high and state Health Commissioner David Axelrod recommended that: "Steps be taken immediately to reduce levels of dioxins and furans being emitted in Niagara Falls because of health concerns." Now two years later the second set of test results show that emission of dioxins and furans have doubled despite efforts at "improving" operations of the plant. Despite the increased emission the cancer risk is now estimated as half that computed by N.Y. State in 1986. The new risk analysis was performed by Mid-West Research Institute (MRI). MRI's analysis is seriously flawed: (a) it assumes that particulate bound dioxin and furan are not inhaled; (b) it did not examine contamination of food; and (c) it computed soil concentration using the discredited ISC deposition model. For more information contact Tom Webster, Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, Queens College, Flushing, NY 11367. Tel: 718-670-4192.

EPA TO BFI REVOLVING DOOR. Marcia Williams, former US EPA Director of the Office of Solid Waste, Washington D.C., has joined Browning Ferris Industries February 29, 1988, as Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs, a newly created position. Ms. Williams left the EPA on February 26, 1988, and will be based in BFI's Washington D.C. office. William Ruckleshaus, former Head of the US EPA, is on the Board of Directors of BFI.

"HENLEY GROUP INC. AND WASTE MANAGEMENT INC. said they plan to merge their waste-to-energy operations into a new company that will have assets of more than \$1 billion and be the nation's largest waste incinerator. Henley will own 62% of the new company, which will retain the name of Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., Henley's waste-to-energy unit. Wheelabrator will own 15% and Waste Management will own the remaining 23%... Henley, which has headquarters in La Jolla, Calif., is currently the largest U.S. waste-to-energy incinerator with seven plants operating and another dozen either under construction, or in the planning stage. At the same time it marks Waste Management's withdrawal from active involvement in large-scale garbage incineration... Under the proposed merger, Wheelabrator Technologies will absorb Waste Management's Tampa, Fla. incinerator and three other waste-to-energy projects the company has under development in Broward County, Fla; Dakota County, Minn; and Falls Township, Pa... Waste Management said it will provide \$150 million in backup credit to support Wheelabrator Technologies \$850 million in existing credit. Waste Management will also make available options on parcels of land at 110 waste disposal sites it operates in the U.S. The land options

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may be Waste Management's most critical contribution to the new venture. Under the proposed merger, Wheelabrator would be able to purchase land at Waste Management landfills. A Henley spokesman called the land options 'exceedingly' important... Access to Waste Management's landfills could also ease a potentially prickly environmental problem for Wheelabrator. Critics charge that ash residues from waste-to-energy plants contain toxic heavy metals, making them unfit to dump in ordinary landfills. Waste Management owns a number of landfills specially constructed to handle hazardous waste..." Wall Street Journal, April 22, 1988, pg. 18.

"REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SOLID WASTE INCINERATORS PROPOSED FOR LONG ISLAND AND NEW YORK CITY." This review was commissioned by Newsday, Long Island's largest daily newspaper, to assess the cumulative air-pollutant emissions from 13 proposed incinerators and 1 operating incinerator for the Long Island and N.Y. City area. Some of the conclusions: " * There are substantial differences in emission estimates for the 14 plants. Depending on the type of pollutant, estimates vary from a factor of two (e.g. nitrogen oxides) to a factor of 1,000 or more (e.g. cobalt). The emission estimates should thus be taken with caution. * The methodologies and input parameters used in four health risk assessments which were reviewed, show significant differences regarding the number of pollutants and exposure pathways considered, as well as regarding the parameters used to calculate the uptake by humans. Despite the considerable variations and uncertainties, the result, the 'maximum individual cancer risk' lies in a surprisingly small range of 1.2 per million to 1.9 per million. The overall uncertainty of the risk estimate is considered to be much larger than one order of magnitude. * The cumulative emissions of dioxins and furans from the 14 plants over the next 30 years could be 1.1 to 180 times larger than the total emissions during the 1976 accident at the chemical plant in Seveso, Italy. * The majority of health effects are expected to be from long distance transport of dioxin emissions into areas with milk production. The number of cancer cases estimated via the milk pathway could well be in the hundreds and is about 50 times larger than the estimated cases via inhalation in the study area." Published on Nov. 30, 1987, the report is available from Bernd Franke, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, 6935 Laurel Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. Cost is \$10. Tel: 301-270-5500.

NEW RECYCLING VIDEO AVAILABLE. Roger Bailey and Paul Connett have just completed a video on the recycling program in RODMAN, N.Y. The tape explains how this rural community of 850, confronted with a proposal to build a 1,200 acre regional landfill in the beautiful Tug Hill area, built a recycling center next to their transfer station, and reduced the amount of waste being sent to the landfill by a massive 70% (by volume, not weight). Within 6 months they have nearly recouped the \$9,500 capital cost for the building. State officials told them it would take three generations before the American people would recycle. The video is 42 minutes, costs \$25, and is available from: VIDEOACTIVE PRODUCTIONS, Box 322, Route 2, Canton, NY 13617, tel: 315-386-8797.

Waste Not

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