

AMERICA: TOXIC FREE-FIRE ZONE. "The toxic war we now realize was going on in Vietnam has come home to America...Pollution has turned America into a toxic free-fire zone." Mary Stout of the Vietnam Vets of America Foundation at the TOXICS '88 conference in Nashua, N.H. A full report of the conference is in In These Times, Feb.24-March 8, 1988.

ALMOST 90% OF THE PCB'S ENTERING LAKE SUPERIOR IS COMING THROUGH THE AIR, according to scientists at an April 14 House oversight committee that focused on airborne toxic pollution in the Great Lakes. "The scientists said an even higher percentage of the lead contamination in the Great Lakes comes through the atmosphere -an estimated 97% for Lake Superior and 99% for Lake Michigan... 'There is so much PCB pollution in the system in some parts of the lakes that the lakes themselves are their own source of pollution,' Peter Wise, an environmental consultant, and former director of the EPA's Great Lakes national program office, said at the hearing. 'There is so much of it in the system that it is rising through the water column, volatilizing with sunlight, and then coming back down again,' Wise said ... 'By the time sufficient data exists to identify the sources, transport, fate and effects of the contaminants, it is too late,' Wayland Swain, vice-president of Eco Logic, a consulting firm in Ann Arbor, Mich., told the panel..." Environment Reporter, 4-2²88, pgs. 2532-2533.

DIOXIN UPTAKE IN DAIRY PRODUCTS. This recently published paper considers "a model for estimating the concentration of 2,3,7,8-TCDD in milk from a cow grazing near an incinerator, given the ambient air concentration. We estimate that the daily dose received from this milk could be 200 times higher than the daily dose from inhalation of the same ambient air. Comparisons with other work in this area are made." "An Estimation of the Relative Human Exposure to 2,3,7,8-TCDD Emissions Via Inhalation and Ingestion of Cow's Milk," by Paul Connett and Tom Webster, Chemosphere, Vol. 16, Nos. 8/9, 1987, pgs. 2079-2084. Available from WASTE NOT for \$1.

CHICAGO NORTHWEST INCINERATOR. Two Greenpeace members climbed the smokestack of the Chicago N.W. incinerator and hung a banner which read: "Stop Toxic Ash: Recycle." The protest follows the new Greenpeace report on the Chicago N.W. mass-burn incinerator "which charges that reckless management of Chicago's N.W. incinerator is posing a threat to human health and the environment. The group charges that ash from the NW incinerator contains high levels of dangerous toxic chemicals and should be treated as a hazardous waste...The ash is presently being buried in a traditional garbage landfill in Three Oaks, Michigan." In a May 2, 1988 press release, Greenpeace calls for an international ban on garbage incineration. For more information and copies of their report, contact Ben Gordon or Joe Thornton at Greenpeace Great Lakes, 1017 W. Jackson Ave, Chicago, IL 60607. Tel: 312-666-3305.

EPA'S SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD (SAB) RELEASES 2 REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL WASTE COMBUSTION. One report, the "Evaluation of Scientific Issues Related to Municipal Waste Combustion," noted that in 1980 the U.S. generated 159 million tons of municipal solid waste with 4% burned... "Citing EPA figures, the board said that by the turn of the century, 311 additional incinerators, with a design capacity of 252,000 tons of waste per day, may be in service. Design capacity in 1985 was 45,000 tpd...Overall the report emphasized the current lack of scientific knowledge concerning municipal waste combustion and the need for better analysis to enable scientists and decision makers to estimate health and environmental exposures from burning municipal waste...The report singled out several specific areas of concern that require additional study. These include 'tradeoffs' in incinerator design and operation that depend on the wastes burned. For instance, while high temperatures destroy organic compounds more thoroughly, high temperatures cause

greater metal concentrations in air emissions and produce more nitrogen oxides. The report also said better stack emission controls result in purer air emissions but produce more toxic fly ash." The second report, "Review of the Municipal Waste Combustion Research Plan," "...SAB recommended emission characterization as the top priority, through analytical chemistry projects, methods development, and field testing. It noted that risk assessment, health effects prediction, and emission control cannot be adequately conducted without a thorough knowledge of the quality and quantity of the emissions, both gaseous and residual. Following emissions characterization, environmental transport, fate, and bioavailability should be determined, because they are essential to an assessment of both risk and exposure to humans and the environment...Both SAB reports are available from Cheryl Bentley, Science Advisory Board (A-101), EPA, 401 M St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Tel: 202-382-2552." Environment Reporter, 5-6-88, pgs. 7-8.

NEW YORK: On March 16, 1988, the Cayuga County Legislature voted 18-2 for Law #4 that prohibits bringing garbage into the county to dump or burn, and imposes a maximum penalty of \$10,000 and a year in jail for each day a violation continues. Columbia County "republicans were stunned in November by Democratic victories in five town-supervisor races that loosened their 45-year grip on county government...the issue that ultimately burned the GOP was the party's alignment with a proposal for a solid-waste incinerator for the county...(democrats) were 100% against it." Sunday Times Union (Albany), 4-17-88.

MISSOURI SENATE BILL BANNS HOSPITAL WASTE INCINERATOR. "The Missouri House of Representatives approved a Senate bill Monday, March 28, banning operation of DE-COM Medical Waste Systems Inc., Gatineau, Canada, incinerator at Bunker. The House returned the bill to the Senate after 144-1 in approval. Bunker Resources operated the incinerator until late August of 1987 when the Dept. of Natural Resources and four opposing Reynolds County residents obtained a court order halting the operation. Residents complained of smoke and offensive odors coming from the incinerator stack...Bunker Resources was issued a clean air permit by the state, according to Rep. Don Koller, D-Summersville, representative of the Bunker area. 'It is the same kind of permit a grocery store has to burn cardboard boxes,' Koller said." Reynolds County Courier (MO) 4-7-88. For more information contact Linda Tanner at 314-269-4415.

PROPOSITION H, The Clean Air Initiative, was created by the anti-incineration group, San Diegans for Clean Air, and drawn up by two law school professors. According to Owen Murphy of Ocean View, NJ, it is a "model petition." This initiative, passed in last November's elections, stated that no mass-burn facility over 500 tpd could be "located within a 3 mile radius of a hospital, elementary school, or child care center or nursing home for the elderly licensed by a government entity; or make additional demands on the treated water distribution system within the city." Copies of Prop. H are available from WASTE NOT. Please send a SASE.

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