

Waste Not

The Weekly Reporter
for rational
resource management

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May 17, 1988

DUE TO EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS IN OUR LOCAL CITIZEN'S CAMPAIGN against a proposed 250 tpd HARBERT-TRIGA incinerator, this issue is late. Apologies from E.C.

WHEELABRATOR FAILING TO MEET RESTRICTIONS ON SULFUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS, a pollutant associated with the formation of acid rain. The \$150 million, 1,500 tpd trash incinerator in Millbury (near Worcester, Mass) went on line in Sept. 1987. The tipping fee is \$70 per ton. "During February, company monitoring reports show the plant exceeded sulfur dioxide limits for a total of 110 hours, with excess emissions ranging from 105 to 714% of the emission rate allowed under the air permit. State officials said similar continuing problems with sulfur dioxide emissions were reported through the months of January and March." There have also been "periodic excess emission of carbon monoxide during the same three-month period." Thomas Cussons, Chief of the central region air pollution division of the Dept. of Environmental Engineering said, "the state will decide whether to take enforcement action against the company, or relax the standards in the permit to allow the higher emissions. Cussons said another possible explanation for the high emission rate may be that the 'state of the art' acid gas scrubbers, installed to remove acid gases, are not operating as efficiently as the company said they would." Timothy Porter, a Wheelabrator engineer in charge of pollution systems said "that continual emissions monitoring equipment is accurate within 20% 'plus or minus'...other environmental problems have also surfaced since the plant began operating. DEQE has received about a half-dozen complaints about odors from residents of Millbury, Auburn and Worcester, since September...Also while company officials had said they expected emissions from the stack would hardly ever be visible when applying for the federal air permit, a visible plume has been emitted on a regular basis since the plant began operating..." The Evening Gazette, (Mass.) 5-4-88.

B.F.I. INSTALLED THE WRONG THICKNESS LINER AT ITS ROCKINGHAM, VERMONT, LANDFILL three years ago, according to William Ahearn, Vermont's Chief of Solid Waste Technical Assistance. "Browning Ferris Industries has repeatedly violated the conditions of its state environmental permit and installed the wrong thickness liner at its Rockingham landfill three years ago," according to Ahearn. Ahearn discovered "that the high density polyethylene liner was only 40 mils thick, instead of the state-required 60 mils...the one-acre lined landfill, which has a built-in leachate collection system is used exclusively to accept the ash" from the SIGNAL 200 tpd trash incinerator in Claremont, NH. "...Ahearn said in December 1985 the state was told by BFI that it had installed a 60 mil liner on a small portion of the Rockingham landfill. 'I am concerned that it took two years and four months for me to receive formal notice,' of the discrepancy in the liner, said Ahearn. He noted that BFI didn't volunteer the information, he had discovered it during a perusal of a BFI annual report...Ahearn said he discovered on a April 9 visit to the landfill that BFI was ignoring the condition of its April 1987 permit by failing to cover the 60 tons of ash with a daily cover of six inches of soil. In response, BFI attorney Douglas Richards said the ash was too soft to drive on, an assertion Ahearn disputed, and that BFI wanted to wait a week for it to dry and 'set up' before adding the required cover..." Rutland Herald (VT), 5-11-88.

PHILADELPHIA, PENN. TO CLOSE DOWN 2 INCINERATORS. Mayor Goode announced that Philadelphia's two incinerators (see WASTE NOT # 2) will be shut down by July 1st. Mayor Goode has recently signed a new contract with WASTE MANAGEMENT INC., and finalized by the City Council, to dispose of Philadelphia's waste in WMI landfills for the next 6 years. The deal appears to be an inducement to build a new incinerator. The contract can only be extended for another 20 years if Philadelphia builds an incinerator! If Philadelphia doesn't build an incinerator the WMI contract ends in

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in 6 years. The WMI landfills that will be accepting Philly's as are located in Potstown, Falls Township and Tullytown, Penn. For more information contact Mark Lohbauer; 8235 Balfour Road, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. Tel 609-663-4595.

SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, SAYS NO TO PROPOSED 300 TPD, \$60 MILLION INCINERATOR.

The county's Solid Waste Authority Council (SWAC) issued their report on March 23, 1988, recommending that Sussex County forbid the burning of trash and delete an incinerator from the county solid waste plan. The Board of Freeholders unanimously voted to have county staff prepare amendments to the county solid waste management plan to reflect the SWAC's recommendations. The SWAC report can be obtained from 55-57 High Street, Newton, NJ 07860, tel 201-383-2820. For more information about Sussex County contact Jim Fiola, Box 100, Greendell, NJ 07839, tel 201-362-5727.

BFI ANNOUNCED LAST MONTH IT HAS DROPPED PLANS TO BUILD A GIANT LANDFILL on a 1,000 acre site in the town of Coxsackie, NY, because of the presence of archeological artifacts. For more information contact Paul Klein, 88 Washington Ave, Coxsackie, NY 12051, tel 518-731-2178.

TORONTO, CANADA, TO SHUT DOWN INCINERATOR. The 35 year old Commissioners Street incinerator was voted, 20-15, by the Metro Council to be shut down no later than July 1st. The incinerator was re-built in 1976 at a cost of \$9 million and disposed of approximately 100,000 tons of trash per year. According to Linda Lynch, director of the Citizens for a Safe Environment, "The incinerator spews out 5½ times more lead contaminants than Canada Metal Company, a nearby plant that has taken heat for lead pollution since the early 1970's...The incinerator has been attacked as a pollution hazard and early last year the Toronto Board of Health asked that it be shut down as soon as possible. The health board said studies had shown the plant dumps more than five kilograms of deadly dioxins into the air every year, as well as quantities of other toxins." A young child, "not quite 3 years old spent six weeks in the Hospital for Sick Children with lead poisoning in late 1986. The family lives on Heward Avenue, about two blocks from the incinerator. 'His hair turned green, he was listless and and irritable...Daniel had lead levels four times what is considered dangerous," according to his father. The decision was hailed as the "culmination of an incredible community effort..." Toronto Star, May 11, 1988.

STYROFOAM. "...'Atoms for Peace' came from the atomic bomb program, but not many people know that styrofoam was developed because it possessed the density required to surround and enhance the expanding atomic explosion." From a letter by Paul Schaefer, Missouri, to Earth Island Journal, Spring 1988, page 2.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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