

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQE) SAYS BOSTON'S PROPOSED SOUTH BAY INCINERATOR POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK. Last year the Boston Board of Health and Hospitals had granted permission to the 1,500 tpd AM REF-FUEL mass burn-incinerator in a decision that said "a plant in South Bay would not pose a safety risk. And yesterday John Coucier, a safety expert in the Environmental's Protection Agency's Boston office, said if an incinerator is well designed and operated, 'you should be able to site the thing in any location.' DEQE, however, disagreed. Even if emissions were kept low, it said, the proposed Boston plant poses an unacceptable risk because so many people living around it suffer from emphysema, asthma, heart disease and other conditions that could be aggravated by any level of emissions...the logic used in Boston could give DEQE problems with facilities under construction or planned for places such as AGAWAM, ROCHESTER, and HAVERHILL...Boston's planning process was seen as a model for a new era of city-state cooperation. The two worked together in reviewing the plan and city officials say they were certain the state would approve their project. Instead, DEQE objected on safety grounds and said the South Bay site is too small and the area around it too congested for the proposed plan...The process was made even more confusing by the outspoken opposition of Senate President William Bulger (D-South Boston). City officials and most other observers said that played a major role in the state's rejection of the proposal...Finally, the Boston struggle has focused attention on whether the state should consider landfills as an alternative to incineration, and whether it is doing enough to meet its recycling goal..." Boston Globe, 6-9-88. The groups that appealed the 1987 Boston Board of Health and Hospitals decision were GREENPEACE, WORCESTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC, MASS TOXICS NETWORK, MASS FAIR SHARE, and REP. SALVATOR DIMASI on behalf of the residents of South End. Also BRAIN (Boston Recyclers Against Incineration) formed specifically to promote recycling in Boston and their first step was to stop the incinerator. Some of the groups in BRAIN are GREENPEACE, MASS PIRG, EASTERN MASS GREENS. According to Kenny Bruno of Greenpeace Gov. Dukakis has said a recycling plant would be built on the same site to recover 1/3 of the trash. For more information contact Kenny Bruno, GREENPEACE, 139 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02142. Tel: 617-576-1650.

IN 1986 MASSACHUSETTS DEQE STOPPED A PROPOSED 685 TPD MASS-BURN INCINERATOR FOR HOLYOKE BECAUSE OF HEALTH CONCERNS. The Mass. DEQE refused an air permit for this proposed 685 tpd mass-burn because of the unusual topography of the site (like a bowl-with frequent inversions) and the already high background levels of lead in the area. The Mass. Dept of Health indicated that the incidence of bladder and prostate cancer for citizens in the area of the proposed plan (Holyoke, Chicopee and South Hadley) was twice the State average. The incinerator proposal was put forward by a private landfill owner, Mr. Partyka, who wanted to contract it out to RESEARCH COUTRELL. Mr. Partyka now plans to build a hospital waste incinerator in STROUD, OKLAHOMA, a city of 3,200. The plans are to convert an old incinerator used by an asphalt roofing company to burn mainly infectious wastes from 143 hospitals, nursing homes and doctors offices. For more information about the DEQE decision to stop the 685 tpd Holyoke incinerator contact Helen Norris, 2090 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. Tel: 413-536-3858.

OGDEN MARTIN 2,250 TOP PROPOSED PHILADELPHIA MASS-BURN INCINERATOR looks deader than a doornail. While Mayor Goode has been for this incinerator, the majority of the City Council have been opposed. The OGDEN MARTIN burner was to be sited at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. At a hearing last week the City Council received support from an unexpected source when the Navy Yard Commander, Captain William Kerr, announced that the shipyard no longer needed the energy from the incinerator because the Navy has spent \$9 million upgrading its own generating system. Philadelphia Inquirer, 6-8-88.

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PHILADELPHIA ASH SHIP ON THE MOVE AGAIN. According to a front page story in the Philadelphia Inquirer, 6-11-88, the Khian Sea set sail from Philadelphia in the middle of the night of May 22nd. Still on board is most of the original cargo of 15,000 tons of ash from the Philadelphia incinerators, which first left Philadelphia in September of 1986 (see WASTE NOT #2). The ship is now believed to be heading for Cape Verde, an island off the West African Coast. But the ship is now believed to be heading for a sea of trouble because Africa has woken up to the fact that many countries are dumping hazardous waste in African countries. According to the Organization of African Unity this dumping of waste in their countries is "a crime against Africa and Africans." An editorial in the Boston Globe, 6-4-88, reports on a second ship carrying Philadelphia's incinerator ash. "According to The Observer (London), 15,000 tons of toxic waste from Philadelphia has been dumped on the island of Kassa near the Guinean capital of Conakry. The wastes were brought in under an import license for an apparently fictitious brick-manufacturing project and are already poisoning plant and animal life on the island."

CONGRESSMAN LUKEN PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO LINGUISTICALLY DE-TOXIFY INCINERATOR ASH. Dr. Barry Commoner has stated that by not classifying incinerator ash as a hazardous waste we are linguistically de-toxifying it. That appears the intent of Congressman Luken (D-Ohio) who is proposing legislation to classify incinerator ash as a 'special waste.' Brian Lipsett of the CITIZENS CLEARING HOUSE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE has sat in on a number of D.C. meetings on the ash legislation. Brian was witness to an incinerator representative say to a House Subcommittee staffer: "We want you take the word 'hazardous' out of ash." For more information on this legislation contact Brian at CCHW, PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216. Tel: 703-276-7070.

QUADRANT INCINERATOR SUPPLIES STEAM TO LAND O LAKES, a manufacturer of dairy products. According to Vern Massie, Hubbard County Solid Waste Dept, five counties in Minnesota (HUBBARD, BECKER, WADENA, TODD & OTTER TAIL) cooperated in a 100 tpd QUADRANT mass-burn incinerator that went on line in June/July 1987. The incinerator supplies steam to LAND O LAKES and TUFFY'S DOG FOOD. The incinerator is owned by Otter Tail Power Co. and operated by QUADRANT. The five counties signed a contract for a tip fee of \$13 a ton, but with expenses, the cost to the counties is \$21 per ton. QUADRANT shut down the incinerator on June 1st because of financial difficulties and because that was the only way to get the tip fee raised to \$23 per ton, which would cost the counties \$31 per ton. "The incinerator has been in use for more than a year and had lost money, according to Quadrant officials. Dayle Johnson, president, wrote a letter in May saying, '... company losses are beyond QUADRANT's ability to sustain its operations. Events are now so far beyond the control of the company that it is unable to carry out its obligations under this agreement.'" Park Rapids Enterprise (MN), 5-28-88. The five counties are in negotiation over tipping fees.

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