

400 TPD BLOUNT INCINERATOR "STARTS UP" IN WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

	<u>Projected Costs (1985)</u>	<u>Actual Costs (1988)</u>
INCINERATOR COSTS	\$40.3 million	\$66 million
TIP FEES	1988: \$37.71 per ton	\$98 per ton
LANDFILL COSTS		\$35 million

This incinerator located in **Oxford** dominates the otherwise tranquil rural landscape. Water for the incinerator is being drawn from a prime trout stream and sited in the center of a triangle, the points of which are a spectacular gorge, a dairy farm and an old plant once run by Thomas Edison. To obtain the access road to the incinerator the county condemned a piece of property that runs through a 200 acre farm that grows corn, and took it by right of eminent domain. The house just across from the access road on Route 31 has had 20 to 30 feet of its property taken for widening Route 31 -at the county's expense. The start-up phase of this mass-burn incinerator began on June 29. The facility hasn't burned more than 150 tpd in the incinerator as of 8-10-88. The ashfill, still under construction and not expected to be complete until April 1989, will be built in three phases. The first phase will allow a 10 year capacity at a cost of \$25 million. The second and third phases will fulfill the 20 year capacity at a cost estimated at \$10 million. The ashfill, located approx 4,000 feet from the incinerator in **White Township**, will accept all wastes: ash, vegetative, bulky, and by-pass. It will have four liners: two of clay and two of synthetic materials. An agreement has been made with **Grand Central Sanitation Landfill in Pen Argyl, Pa** to accept the ash. Currently the ash is being stored on site at the incinerator in "watertight" covered containers. NJ Assemblyman **John Rocco** talked to a chemist at the Pa. Dept. of Environmental Resources who said Pa. would not accept the ash at this point in time because they haven't received sufficient analytical data on the ash. When **Waste Not** asked **William Finn**, consultant to the project, about the test results of the ash, he replied that they are not publically available, but assured us that both tests done on the ash have passed the EP toxicity test. **Finn** would not reveal the name of the lab doing the testing, only commenting that they are state approved. The incinerator is fitted with an acid gas scrubber/wet lime injection and a fabric filter baghouse, and will sell electricity to the **Jersey Central Power & Light Co** with the first year sale at 6 1/2 cents per kilowatt-hour, with an escalation clause built in the power purchase. Assessment of the dioxin exposure from this incinerator was based on the analysis and conclusions of the **Konheim & Ketcham**, March 1985, report for the **Brooklyn Navy Yard incinerator**, which ascribed a "maximum additional cancer risk (to people residing in the 2/3rd of a square mile surrounding the facility) would total 0.17 cases, assuming a 70-year exposure to the maximum concentrations." However, unlike the proposed **Brooklyn Navy Yard incinerator** this incinerator is built in farmland and a health risk assessment for dioxin should have included uptake of dioxin in cows milk. A dairy farm abuts the incinerator as does a 200 acre farm that grows corn. Also, it appears that endangered or threatened wildlife does not appear to be a concern for the **NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection**. As determined by the **NJ DEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program**, the project site is located less than 1.5 miles north of an area in which endangered bog turtles and threatened wood turtles have been found. The project site is also within the breeding range of: **Endangered (E) - Threatened (T)**

(T) Long Tailed Salamander	(T) Great Blue Heron	(E) Cooper's Hawk
(T) Red-Shouldered Hawk	(T) Barred Owl	(T) Red Headed Woodpecker
(E) Cliff Swallow	(T) Bobolink	(T) Savannah Sparrow
(T) Grasshopper Sparrow	(E) Henslow's Sparrow	(E) Vesper Sparrow

The incinerator is oversized as Warren County is estimated to produce 250 tpd of solid waste. They are planning to take 100 tpd of waste from **Huntington County (NJ)**. The **Warren County Pollution Control and Financing Authority**, overseeing the incinerator project, has just appointed a new executive director, **Bart Carhart**. Carhart worked for the **NJ DEP** for the last 12 years, during which time he was Bureau Chief of Solid Waste Management and Planning, and in the last two years was Bureau Chief of Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Financing. Some of the players in this project are: **Consulting Engineers, Metcalf & Eddy; Bond Counsel, McCarter & English; Special consultants, William A. Finn & Assoc; Financial advisors, J.J. Lowrey & Co; Legal Counsel, Broschius, Cook & Glynn**. The **Warren Energy Resources Corp**, a private company that operates the incinerator, is a subsidiary of **Blount**.

INCINERATORS CAUSE ACID FOG. In a letter published in the Post-Standard (NY). 8-6-88, pg. A-9, Gloria Sage, a chemist from Syracuse, wrote about "a case study of two fog episodes two miles from a municipal waste incinerator near Zurich, Switzerland. The pH of the fogwater was as low as **1.94**, 650 times more acidic than vinegar. Levels of **cadmium, lead, zinc, and copper** in this acidic fogwater were very high and the **chloride** concentration was **3%** that of seawater. The source of this acidity was hydrochloric acid emitted from the incinerator. Trees in the area are dying. Needless to say, Switzerland has much more experience building and running municipal incinerators than we have, and their emission and ambient air standards are much more stringent. Fog is a problem associated with power plants, especially when the humidity is high. Health assessment models for incinerators do not consider many factors. The health effects associated with acidic fogwater containing high concentrations of heavy metals have not even been contemplated. The effect on vegetation has been demonstrated, and the effect on cars and other property is certainly substantial." Reference to case study is: Atmospheric Environment, Vol. 21, pgs. 2365-2374, 1987, "Case Studies of Fog on the Chemical Composition of Fog Waster...", by C.A. Johnson, et al.

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Waste Not #18

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.

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