

Waste Not

The Weekly Reporter
for rational
resource management

#22

A publication of *Work On Waste USA, Inc.*, 82 Judson, Canton, NY 13617 315-379-9200

September 20, 1988

VIRGINIA: NEWPORT NEWS CITY COUNCIL REJECTS INCINERATION BY A VOTE OF 7-0. A 650 tpd mass-burn incinerator, originally scheduled for groundbreaking in March 1987, has just been defeated. All three city council members up for re-election in May 1988 lost to candidates opposing the incinerator. Two signed a pre-election 5 year moratorium on mass-burn, the other went public for recycling and against the project as it was proposed. New council members were installed on July 1st. On September 13, 1988, the Newport News City Council unanimously passed a resolution that concluded: "it is not in the best interest of the City to proceed with the construction of a mass-burn Resource Recovery Facility at this time." City Manager Edgar E. Maroney had recommended the council delay building the plant for at least five years. According to an editorial in the Daily Press (VA) of 9-16-88: "The opponents of a mass-burn incinerator in Newport News have finally gotten their way. City Council has agreed to develop a solid-waste disposal plan that relies on recycling, composting, source reduction and landfilling, rather than an incinerator." For more information contact Barbara Buck, **Citizens Against Polluting the Peninsula (CAPP)**, 117 Algonquin Road, Hampton, VA 23661. Tel: 804-723-0473.

NEW YORK: FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY REJECT ASHFILL PROPOSAL.

On September 19, 1988, the Board of Supervisors voted to reject a proposal to accept ash for a 400 tpd **Foster Wheeler** incinerator proposed for Hudson Falls, Washington County, NY. (See **Waste Not #3**). Included in the resolution that was unanimously voted on was a moratorium on the acceptance of any waste from outside Fulton County until October 1, 1988. In April 1988 the Essex County (NY) Board of Supervisors rejected the siting for bottom ash only from the proposed Hudson Falls **Foster Wheeler** incinerator. **Foster Wheeler** needs to have an ash disposal site by December 31st to meet requirements to construct the Hudson Falls incinerator. If an ash site is not found by the end of this year the Hudson Falls incinerator might be defeated.

OREGON: MARION COUNTY IMPORTS TRASH FOR 550 TPD OGDEN MARTIN MASS-BURN INCINERATOR.

"About 6 months after the furnaces were ignited at the Marion facility, leaders there decided that to keep the incinerator burning at optimum conditions, and to keep dumping fees from skyrocketing, garbage would have to be imported. 'Marion County doesn't have enough refuse at the level you should be,' said Russel B. Johnson, manager of the Marion facility. 'It was an economic decision,' Sears said. 'It costs less once you reach a certain amount (of trash). There's an economic incentive (to importing)'...Marion County, with a voluntary recycling program, produces 162,000 tons of trash a year, said James V. Sears, solid waste management director. The county annually buries about 12,000 tons of unburnable trash and burns 150,000 tons. It imports about 34,000 tons... The Marion plant, about two miles from Salem in the northwestern corner of the state, cost \$47.5 million to build. It is operated by **Ogden Martin Systems Inc....**" Sun Bulletin (Binghamton, NY) 7-17-88. **Waste Not** has learned that the imported garbage is coming from the Portland area, outside of Marion County. The incinerator ash goes to a monofill located in Woodburn, about 13 miles from the incinerator. The monofill has a single composite liner which consists of 12 inches of bentonite clay and a HDPE plastic liner. The incinerator generates electricity and is now receiving 7¢ per kilowatt hour from the Portland General Electric Company.

OHIO: DIOXIN FOUND NEAR CITY INCINERATORS. "Air tests near trash-burning power plants in Columbus and Akron turned up trace amounts of dioxin but not enough to threaten human health, the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority said yesterday. The tests completed recently by the **Battelle Columbus Laboratories**, are among the first to measure airborne concentrations of dioxin...The air authority ordered the study because of public concern

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and federal interest in discharges from municipal incinerators. In the Columbus area, dioxin measurements were taken near the power plant, at the state fairgrounds and in Waldo, north of Delaware. Akron and Columbus samples contained about twice as much dioxin as the rural sample at Waldo, **Battelle** said. Urban concentrations were about the same as previously measured in Bloomington, Ind., and at a remote site in Norway. The Columbus and Akron dioxin readings were about 20% of those reported from urban and industrial sites in Europe. 'There is no appreciable risk to public health from the concentrations of these compounds found in the...air in Ohio,' the **Battelle** report says ...Peter Sohl, a spokesman for the air authority, said the dioxin study was one of eight to ten the agency commissions each year. The agency plans a follow-up dioxin study next year. 'This is not the end of it,' he said. Patricia Walling, chief of air pollution programs for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, said her staff is not endorsing the study, 'but we thought it was an interesting conclusion. We have yet to look seriously at dioxin from our municipal incinerators in Ohio,' she said...Walling said she was surprised that **Battelle** found that airborne dioxins represented no hazard near the Columbus and Akron plants. Until recently, dioxins have been considered more of a food or water-pollution problem than an air-pollution problem. In its report, **Battelle** recommends additional studies in Ohio on public exposure to dioxin through the eating of contaminated milk or food." Columbus Dispatch, 8-10-88, Ohio. **Battelle Columbus Labs** of Ohio prepared the health risk assessment in 1985 for the first incinerator proposal for St. Lawrence County, N.Y. (This was a proposed 200 tpd **Sigoures Freres** incinerator that died.) The local citizen's group, **Work on Waste-St. Lawrence County**, urged the county to have **Battelle** assess the uptake of dioxin, from the incinerator, in cow's milk in the health risk assessment. **Battelle** refused, even though St. Lawrence County is the biggest milk producing county in New York State. St. Lawrence County paid a total of \$74,437.96 to **Battelle** for a health risk assessment calculated on exposure to dioxin from inhalation only, and with no indication, whatsoever, of any risks of the dioxin uptake in the dairy products consumed and/or exported from St. Lawrence County.

RUCKELSHAUS IS NEW CHIEF OF BROWING-FERRIS INDUSTRIES. "William D. Ruckelshaus, who twice headed the EPA, was named chairman and chief executive yesterday of one of the nation's largest waste-disposal companies, **Browning-Ferris Industries**...he will succeed Harry J. Phillips Sr., who led the company since 1977, during which time its annual revenues have grown from \$300 million to nearly \$2 billion...Mr. Phillips said he decided to step aside in part because of regulatory changes. 'Our company and our industry have become more and more involved in the public, political and regulatory arenas,' he said in a statement...**Browning-Ferris**, which ranks No. 2 to **Waste Management Inc.** in annual revenues in the waste-disposal industry, has been embroiled in several price-fixing disputes in recent years, paying more than \$15 million in related fines since 1984..." New York Times, 9-8-88, page D5.

FINAL CORRECTION TO WASTE NOT #20 and #21: In our review of "Wrapped in Plastics" the word prophylyene should have read P R O P Y L E N E.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.

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