

## HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS: THE OGDEN MARTIN STORY - PART TWO

1,650 TPD MASS BURN INCINERATOR

STATE PERMITS: APPROVED

CONSTRUCTION COST: \$264 MILLION

FINANCING: \$233 MILLION IN MASS. INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AGENCY BONDS

WASTE FOR THE INCINERATOR WILL COME FROM:

ASHBURNHAM, AYER, DANVERS, ESSEX, FRAMINGHAM, GROTON,  
HAVERHILL, LAWRENCE, LEOMINSTER, LITTLETON, LYNNFIELD,  
STOW, AND WEST BOLYSTON, MASS.,  
AND SALEM AND SEABROOK, N.H.

"IN THE HAVERHILL BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT OF 1-21-88, IT NOTED FIVE ERRORS IN THE RISK CALCULATION BY OGDEN:

1. LOW DEPOSITION RATE
2. ERRONEOUS USE OF REFLECTION COEFFICIENT
3. IMPROPER HALF LIFE OF DIOXINS IN SOIL
4. IMPROPER BIOCENTRATION FACTORS IN FISH
5. UNDERSTATED CONTAMINATION OF MOTHER'S MILK"

Dr. Eschenroeder estimated in his 1-20-88 report "that if the facility were to emit pollutants at the rate allowed by the DEQE air pollution permit, the risk of cancer would increase to 341 in a million." "Final Report of Consultants to the (Haverhill) Board of Health, May 17, 1988" by Warner & Stackpole, Boston, Ma., page 33.

On July 9, 1987, Dr. Frank Lawrence, on behalf of **Ogden Martin**, stated that "the way one medically and scientifically addresses the questions about resource recovery is via the process of risk assessment...However, in its Summary Report, **Ogden** now objects to the use of any risk assessment in the Board's (Haverhill Board of Health) exercise of its evaluative authority..." same reference as above, page 24.

"**Ogden** actually used a roughness length that is one-tenth of the value they claim they used and we requested for rural areas...The effect of this error is to produce deposition velocities one-half of the correct value. Thus the health risk numbers in the **Envirologic** Feb. 25 letter must be doubled and the health risk numbers in the **Ogden** Set V response must be multiplied by ten to correct for the errors in deposition rate calculations." "Technical Report of the Consultants to the Board of Health on the **Ogden** March 10 Submittals, May 10, 1988," by **Tech Environmental, Inc.**, page 2.

**Ogden's** Summary Report to the Haverhill Board of Health, March 10, 1988, "discusses the stack health risk assessment. In discussing the methodology **Ogden** repeatedly refers to results that are 'extremely conservative' and 'overstated' when in fact **Ogden** has consistently underestimated the pollutant deposition rates by an order of magnitude or more and hence understated the health risk. Even their latest submittal, the **Envirologic** Feb. 25, 1988 letter, has underestimated deposition rates and health rates and health risk." same reference as above, page 4.

**Ogden's** response to Guldberg's report was to state: "This is not an esoteric, scientifically difficult issue to resolve. It is subject to empirical testing and observation...However, **Ogden** has chosen not to submit any 'empirical testing' data to support its purported ash emission estimates. Instead the Haverhill Board of Health is asked to rely on the statements of various **Ogden** employees, consultants and lawyers that the management techniques used at the site will eliminate all possibility of ash

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emissions." "Final Report of Consultants to the Board of Health, 5-17-88," page 42.

"As described in our January 21, 1988 report, in numerous instances the proposed mass-burn facility violates state air quality regulations and guidelines adopted to protect the public health. **Ogden's** argument that the Haverhill Board of Health cannot enforce those regulations and that any concerns about **Ogden's** compliance should be directed to DEQE are misplaced." "Final Report of Consultants to the (Haverhill) Board of Health, May 17, 1988," page 46.

"...when the correct maximum emission levels were used, the **Ogden** facility violated the state ambient air levels for lead, cadmium and nickel...**Ogden** has not disputed that the maximum levels of emission from this facility result in violations of the health based ambient air levels. **Ogden's** only argument is that the facility's typical emission levels do not violate these standards. However, as MR. Guldberg explains, only maximum levels are used in computing compliance with AAL's. We are shocked by **Ogden's** argument that AAL's are not 'binding standards,' and that even if they are violated it is of no consequence." same reference as above, page 47-48.

"As Mr. Guldberg stated at the public hearing on April 28, 1988, despite our repeated information requests we have been unable to obtain a comprehensive set of data on background levels of pollutants, either from all sources or major sources...We have no information on background levels or cumulative impacts for the entire range of non-carcinogenic 'air toxics.' Given the fact that the facility as designed will violate health-based ambient air levels for cadmium, nickel and lead, without any contribution from background, the levels of these pollutants in the atmosphere from other sources will only contribute to further noncompliance." same reference as above, page 49.

"A necessary element of any air pollution permit from DEQE is a showing of compliance with the state ambient air levels. The air permit materials for the **Ogden** facility demonstrated compliance, but the materials submitted to the Board indicated that maximum emission levels of pollutants (which are used to demonstrate AAL compliance) were substantially higher than those represented to DEQE...We have no doubt that DEQE considers AAL's to be 'binding,' and that the Department would not knowingly permit any facility which violates its Air Toxics Program. (footnote no. 27) "...we are critical of **Ogden** for failing to disclose its true maximum emission levels to the Department for its AAL analysis, and instead disclosing them only to the (Haverhill Board of Health) in this proceeding." same reference as above, pages 47-48.

"...children in Haverhill are currently experiencing an incidence of lead poisoning which is twice the state average...If all 'high risk' communities (such as Haverhill) are removed from the average, Haverhill's children experience lead poisoning at a rate five times greater than the state average..." same reference as above, page 50.

### Waste Not # 24

A publication of  
**Work On Waste USA,**  
a non-profit corporation dedicated to the  
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Annual Subscription Rate: \$25.

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Note: In the reports we quoted we substituted **Ogden**, in most cases, for the reports use of OHA, **Ogden Haverhill Associates**. We also, where necessary, used 'Haverhill Board of Health,' instead of the reports use of the 'board.'