

HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS: THE OGDEN MARTIN STORY - PART FOUR

PROBABLY NO TOWN IN THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE IT CLEARER THROUGH REFERENDUM AND EVERY OTHER POSSIBLE DEMOCRATIC MEANS THAT THEY DO NOT WANT AN INCINERATOR. AND YET, OGDEN MARTIN CONTINUES TO BUILD A PLANT IN THEIR TOWN. PEOPLE FROM MAINE TO CALIFORNIA ARE ACTIVELY OPPOSING INCINERATION NOT ONLY FOR THE FEAR OF THE CHEMICALS COMING OUT OF THE STACKS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THEIR HEIGHTENED CONCERNS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN THEIR HOMETOWNS, COUNTIES AND STATES.

6-19-87: "A public hearing on Haverhill's proposed trash incinerator turned ugly Thursday as an angry and often boisterous crowd vented its frustration over the project. Central to the resident's hostility was a vote by health board members Tuesday in which they confirmed a site assignment first granted by the board in 1977. That assignment was granted to **Refuse Fuels Assoc.**, former operators of a landfill waste processing facility. Members of the audience said they were outraged that the board had voted to confirm the original permit before Thursday's hearings...When Moderator Ashod N. Amirian attempted to end the hour-long discussion, mild hostility turned into open warfare. Members of the audience yelled for more time, and then began to clap and stomp their feet in protest. The scene became so chaotic that Amirian threatened to stop the meeting unless order was restored. The crowd calmed down, but erupted a second time when Board of Health Chairman Albert Rizzotti said the board's vote of Tuesday would stand - that is, that the original site assignment did permit a mass-burn incinerator. Audience members began to protest again, some leaping to their feet to yell out their demands...Members of the audience exploded a third time when they learned that testing had been done this week at the landfill site where the plant will be built..." Haverhill Gazette.

11-4-87: "City Council President Theodore A. Pelosi scored a landslide victory over Mayor William H. Ryan in Tuesday's general election, sweeping each of the city's 22 voting precincts to glide into the Mayor's office on a nearly 2-1 margin...(Mayor Ryan) got trounced in large part because of his support for the **Ogden Martin** trash-to-energy plant." Haverhill Gazette.

11-4-87: There was a referendum on the November 3rd ballot for Haverhill residents to vote on. It read: "Should a regional waste-burning incinerator be located in Haverhill? Yes or No." **NO VOTES: 10,030. YES VOTES, 4,181.** The referendum had a non-binding status and had no legal impact on **Ogden Martin**.

7-7-88: "Tonight's Board of Health incinerator deliberations could be hot and steamy... (said) David Bardelli, President of **Bradford Green Neighborhood Assoc.** 'I'd recommend there be police there...my feeling is there are a lot of mad and frustrated people out there'...Bardelli said residents are angered that throughout the review, **Ogden Martin** has been allowed to continue construction on its plant. 'Putting up that smokestack (287 feet tall) has angered people..." Haverhill Gazette.

7-8-88: "Opponents who came to the (Board of Health) meeting angry over the board's last-minute decision to tour an **Ogden Martin** trash plant in Bristol, Conn., soon changed their minds after deliberations began. Albert (BOH) member said the tour through the plant opened his eyes about the amount of ash that routinely escapes into the air. 'There was noticeable ash in and around structural apparatus of the facility,' Albert said. He added he observed wet ash being trucked onto the street from truck tires and saw ash mixed with loose topsoil blowing out of the adjacent landfill. 'It was pretty clear there was a lot of that stuff blowing around,' Albert said. 'There was obviously quite a difference between what I saw and zero emissions.' **Ogden Martin** claims there is zero to .08 cubic centimeters of ash emitted from its plant each hour while city consultants say the number is about 22 centimeters per hour. The board decided Thursday

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to side with consultants. Albert also disputed **Ogden's** plans for detecting hazardous waste in trash loads. **Ogden Martin** wants to hire an employee who would inspect random loads of trash for hazardous waste. 'What (the trucks) dump pretty much goes right into the pit,' Albert said. 'You'd have to have awfully keen eyes or be standing in the right place at the right time to see something you can pull out of the waste stream.' Haverhill Gazette.

8-1-88: "A 145 ton trash-to-energy turbine and generator arrived with police escort and without incident at the **Ogden Martin** trash plant site early Sunday morning. A disappointed Mayor Theodore A. Pelosi Jr., Council President George Dekeon, City Councilor Betsy A. Conte and about 40 anti-incinerator residents were on hand at 5 a.m. Sunday to witness the delivery of machinery that will power the 1,650 tpd trash processing plant located on the Merrimack River. 'I'm disappointed that the state had to resort to getting involved in this,' Pelosi said this morning. Pelosi refused to give his permission to haulers to move the bulky machinery over city roads. Consequently it was delivered on state and private roads...Although Pelosi was disappointed, he believes it may be **Ogden** officials who will end up more upset in the long run. 'I thought it made sense to wait to bring the equipment in until the Board of Health made its decision,' Pelosi said, referring to health risk deliberations that could revoke the plant's permit." Haverhill Gazette.

THE FOLLOWING OPERATING OR PROPOSED INCINERATORS ARE ALL WITHIN A FOUR MILE RADIUS:

TOWN	OPERATOR	TYPE	TPD	OPERATIONAL	ASHFILL
LAWRENCE	OGDEN MARTIN	RDF	1,000	SEPT. 1984	HAVERHILL
NORTH ANDOVER	SIGNAL RESCO	MASS-BURN	1,500	SEPT. 1985	PEABODY
NORTH ANDOVER	GREATER LAWRENCE SANITARY WASTE DISTRICT - shut down for the past few months due to air pollution violations. May reopen.	SEWER- SLUDGE	700	1978-1977	ON SITE
HAVERHILL	OGDEN MARTIN	MASS-BURN	1,650	under construction/HAVRHILL	
METHUEN	PROPRIETARY INFO.	MASS-BURN	500	proposed	?

FACT # 1: Even though the Haverhill Board of Health has repeatedly asked Ogden Martin for baseline data on background pollutants, they still have not received it.

FACT # 2: The town of Lawrence "has the worst infant mortality rate in the state... 16.1 out of every 1,000 babies born in Lawrence dies in infancy." Gazette, 5-20-88.

FACT # 3: For the years 1982-1985, females in Haverhill had a 193% higher than state average of liver cancer; a 52% higher than state average for cancer of the uterine cervix.

Males had a higher than state average rate of cancer for bronchus/lung and bladder cancer. Females also had a higher than state average rate of cancer for colon and rectum, pancreatic, female reproductive organs, and bladder cancer. "1982-1985 Report of Cancer Incidence in Massachusetts. City-Town Supplement, February 1988. Division of Health Statistics and Research, Mass. Cancer Registry."

FACT # 4: "children in Haverhill are currently experiencing an incidence of lead poisoning which is twice the state average." "Final Report of Consultants to the Board of Health, May 17, 1988," written by Warner & Stackpole of Boston, Mass.

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