

MASSACHUSETTS: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQE) PLACES ONE YEAR MORATORIUM ON ISSUING FINAL OPERATING PERMITS FOR GARBAGE INCINERATORS. On November 3, 1988, DEQE Commissioner Daniel Greenbaum announced: "Between this date and the Fall 1989 publication of the statewide solid waste masterplan DEQE will not issue final operating permits for burn facilities. During this period, DEQE will analyze the justification for increased burn capacity and explore additional policy, planning and regulatory improvements for the Commonwealth's integrated solid waste management program."* The reassessment is being called a victory by the **National Toxics Coalition** since it sends a strong message that incineration isn't welcome in Mass. any more. According to the Boston Globe, 11-3-88, the plan was "embraced by antiburning activists but denounced by waste disposal firms...about 50% of the state's waste will be going to incinerators, which was a goal set by the governor. If more are built, Greenbaum and others reasoned, operators would need to burn more trash to make the plants profitable and would have little incentive to recycle. 'We just want to give recycling a chance to catch up,' said one official..." This means that 13 incinerators proposed in Mass. will have a one year moratorium placed on them. They are the towns of: **Bridgewater, Kingston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lowell, Mansfield, Shirley, Taunton, Uxbridge, Westport, and Weymouth**, along with one on the **New Bedford-Dartmouth line** and an expansion of the plant in **Pittsfield**. Operating incinerators are in the towns of North Andover, Saugus, Pittsfield, Millbury, Lawrence, and Agawam. Unfortunately, the **Haverhill** incinerator has been issued final operating permits by the state. A decision by the Haverhill Board of Health on whether to approve **Ogden-Martin's** 1,650 tpd incinerator, now under construction, is expected within the next two weeks. For copies of the DEQE's "Ten Point Action Agenda for Solid Waste Management in Mass.", and * "Questions and Answers on the DEQE Assessment of Combustion Facilities," write to: DEQE Commissioner, 1 Winter Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

EPA IS SOLICITING COMMENTS ON ITS NATIONAL SOLID WASTE STRATEGY BY NOVEMBER 21, 1988.

The U.S. EPA has recently released for public review and comment the draft national strategy titled: "The Solid Waste Dilemma: An Agenda for Action." The strategy is EPA's response to the nation's solid waste crisis. According to the Dallas, Texas, US EPA office release: "In the Strategy, EPA proposed an 'integrated waste management' approach which presents a hierarchy beginning with reducing the amount and toxicity of waste generated, followed by removing recyclable materials, and ending with either incineration and landfilling or just landfilling the remaining waste...It also endorses EPA's four year goal to increase source reduction and recycling to 25% of all municipal solid waste." Copies of the Strategy may be obtained free of charge by calling **1-800-424-9346**. Questions should be referred to Mr. Ed Klein, Director of the Municipal Solid Waste Task Force at **202-382-6261**. Written comments should be sent by November 21, 1988, to: EPA RCRA Docket Information Center, No. F-88-SWDA-FFFF, US EPA (OS-305), Washington, DC 20460.

MASSACHUSETTS: OGDEN-MARTIN RDF SHREDDER FOR LAWRENCE INCINERATOR SUFFERS MINOR EXPLOSION.

"A minor explosion in a shredder at the **Ogden Martin** plant in Ward Hill rattled area windows and sent one plant worker to the hospital for observation... Timothy J. Coco, spokesman for **Ogden Martin**, described the explosion as a 'routine occurrence' caused by explosive materials dumped accidentally in the shredder...The plant's grinder has a built-in safety mechanism to vent explosions of small propane gas tanks or aerosol cans that people may put in the trash, Coco said...Such explosions have been occurring at the plant since **Ogden Martin** first bought the shredder in 1984, Coco said. Deputy Fire Chief Ronald McDonald said the mechanism also automatically releases a **poisonous gas** to suppress any flames that may ignite...The safety mechanism is also

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used by some airlines McDonald said. It costs the plant about \$10,000 each time it goes off, he said. The fire department is always called to respond to the explosions 'as a precaution,' Coco said...The industry calls such explosions '**directed concussions**' which means energy from the explosion is directed away from workers and other garbage, Coco said..." Haverhill Gazette, MA, 10-18-88.

INCINERATOR CONSULTANT ROBERT BRICKER, OF GERSHMAN, BRICKNER & BRATTON, SAYS: "WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP A STORY" FOR MOODY'S. The New York St. Lawrence County Solid Waste Disposal Authority (SWDA) has applied to the state for permits to construct a 250 tpd mass-burn **Harbert-Triga** incinerator. The SWDA is nearly three years behind schedule, their first incinerator proposal failed, their executive director resigned in July and was replaced in October, and their second incinerator project looks to be in serious trouble. SWDA held a hastily convened meeting on November 2, 1988, with its board members to revise parts of a signed contract with the County and **Harbert-Triga**, and to vote on a new \$4 million bond issue. The new bond is needed as SWDA will face a financial crisis if they don't get it. The SWDA board voted against the contract change and the bond, mainly because of the lack of time given to board members to review what they were to vote on. After the vote was taken **GBB's** Mr. Brickner told SWDA members he was going to meet with **Moody's Investor Service** to arrange the SWDA bond rating for the new bond. Mr. Brickner was then asked: What will you tell **Moody's** when you meet with them next week?" Mr. Brickner's reply was: "**we'll have to make up a story and try to explain to them what we plan to do.**" (Ogdensburg Journal, NY, 11-3-88). **GBB** is known for its blinkered approach to waste management, but this statement seems to go beyond simple advocacy for incineration. For the last four years **GBB** have been the waste consultants to the SWDA. **GBB** has received close to one million dollars from the SWDA in consulting fees. The SWDA was initiated by the County Legislature and is a state created authority to provide management for the County's waste. Despite unanswered health, environmental and economic concerns and considerable public opposition, SWDA dogmatically pursues a trash incinerator while paying lip service to recycling. Even though **GBB** has received close to one million dollars from SWDA, the SWDA has never received from **GBB**: (1) an analysis of the county's waste stream; (2) a recycling plan that takes into account the SWDA's 'desire' to recycle 40%, even though construction permits have been applied for; (3) the total system cost the 250 tpd incinerator will cost the county; (4) an estimate of the costs for construction and operating an ash landfill for 20 years; and (5) an estimate of what the tipping fee will be. In 1985 **GBB** called members of the local residents group, **Work on Waste (WOW)**, "**snake oil salesmen**" after **WOW** called upon the SWDA to implement waste reduction, aggressive recycling, composting, and toxics removal. **GBB** are also consultants to Seattle, WA; Ocean County, NJ; and Ansonia, CT. For more information on St. Lawrence County please contact Ellen Connett, 315-379-9200. If there are other groups who know of communities that **GBB** are consultants to, please also contact Ellen.

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