

**NEW JERSEY: BLOUNT'S 400 TPD MASS-BURN INCINERATOR IN WARREN COUNTY LOSING MONEY ON THE AVERAGE OF \$59,000 A WEEK.** The Warren County incinerator, built by Blount, went on-line in July 1988 (see *Waste Not #18*). "Warren County was hailed last year when it became the first in the state to open an incinerator. Set amid cornfields and woodlands 40 miles west of Newark, the plant was held up as a model for NJ's multi-billion-dollar shift from dumping garbage in landfills to burning it in incinerators that also generate electricity. In six months, however, the incinerator has incurred a **\$1.5 million deficit**, in part because of state regulations, including mandatory recycling, that has helped make the plant uneconomical by reducing the amount of garbage sent to it...In planning the \$52 million plant, the Warren County Pollution Control Financing Authority contracted to provide its builder, **Blount Energy Resources Inc.** of Montgomery, Ala., 2,200 tons of garbage a week. **Blount's** fee of \$98 a ton was based on that volume. Now the incinerator is receiving about 1,600 tons of garbage a week, about 27% less than promised. The plant has also run into unexpected expense in disposing of the ash that remains after incineration...Officials estimated that 30% of the ash would exceed Federal standards for the presence of two toxic metals, lead and cadmium, and would require burial in expensive landfills designed for toxic waste. Warren's plant, like incinerators in NY, CT, and across the country, is finding that **45% of its ash exceeds standards. That ash must be shipped out of state to hazardous waste landfills charging \$250 a ton**, nearly four times the cost of landfills for non-toxic waste...NJ insists that ash exceeding Federal standards be buried in hazardous-waste landfills. Bart Carhart, executive director of the county's pollution control authority, says he knows the reasons for the 600-ton-a-week shortfall. He attributes one third of the short fall, or about 200 tons a week, to taxpayers dutifully complying with a recent state law to reduce volume by 25% through recycling of glass, aluminum, and newspaper. Recycling diverts trash from the incinerator, thus posing a Catch-22 for officials relying on trash to pay for operation of the plant...Another third of the loss, Mr. Carhart believes, is traceable to private haulers ignoring a state mandate to dump all of Warren County's trash at the incinerator. Instead, they're going to out-of-state landfills that have cheaper dumping rates than the incinerator's \$98 a ton...The remainder of the weekly shortage, Mr. Carhart believes, stems from poor projections of the amount of trash produced in Warren County, which with 86,500 people, is the second smallest of NY's 21 counties. Part of the problem here, he said, is that the state never required scales at landfills. Thus, incoming garbage was never weighed. Instead, the amount was estimated by a measurement of volume, the cubic yard. Converting cubic-yard guesses to exact tonnage for the purposes of designing an incinerator has been imprecise -and costly, Mr. Carhart said. So far the plant's losses have averaged about \$59,000 a week, he said..." *New York Times*, 1-25-89, pg. B-1. This article did not appear in all editions of the *NY Times*. For copies of the full article, please send a SASE to **Waste Not**.

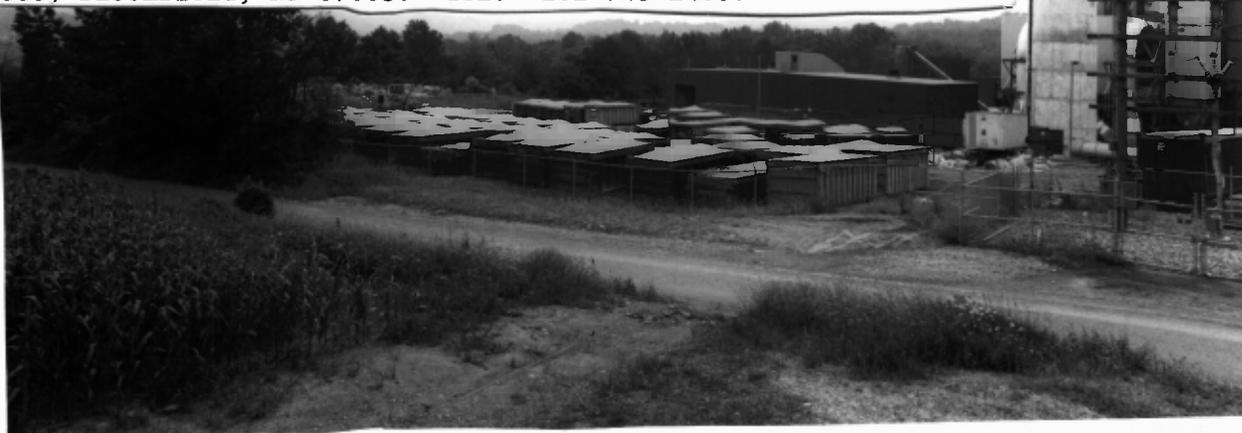
**NEW JERSEY: BLOUNT GETS \$1.8 MILLION FROM WARRENT COUNTY INCINERATOR AUTHORITY FOR LOST REVENUES DUE TO GARBAGE SHORTFALL.** "The Warren County Pollution Control Financing Authority will pay \$1.8 million to the company (**Blount**) that built and operates the county's trash incinerator under a settlement announced yesterday. The payment is reimbursement to the firm for lost revenues due to a shortfall in garbage at the facility and other items. Representatives of the authority and **Blount Inc.** confirmed that as part of the agreement the company will pay the authority an additional \$561,000 for disposal of toxic ash from the incinerator as well as receiving credit for \$134,000 already payed in ash disposal costs. The two sides reached a settlement this week as authority members continued enforcement efforts to ensure that all trash produced in Warren County goes to the incinerator in Oxford Township, trying to avoid another

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situation where low garbage deliveries mean lost revenues to **Blount**. The Alabama-based company's subsidiary **Warren Energy Resources Co.** designed, built, owns and operates the incinerator..." NJ Star Ledger, 2-3-89, pg. 29.

**WARREN COUNTY'S INCINERATOR** had about 50 ash containers on site in the fall of 1988, when this photo was taken. According to the Newark Star Ledger (1-8-89), "140 closed containers are being used to hold the substance (ash) for the 3-6 weeks it takes to test it and ship it to, either the landfill (**Pen Argyl, PA**), or the hazardous disposal site" in **Model City, western New York**, operated by **Chemical Waste Services**. The cost of ash disposal is currently being shared by **Blount** and Warren's authority, but after a certain point, the authority will assume the total cost. This photo, and others, taken by Madeline Hofman, director of **GREO**, can be obtained from Madeline at 149 No. 16th Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. Tel: 201-743-1483.

Cornfields →



**ILLINOIS: CHICAGO BANS WASTE MANAGEMENT AND BROWNING-FERRIS FROM ITS CITY-RUN GARBAGE OPERATIONS FOR THREE YEARS.**

"Beginning Wednesday, the city will not send any of its garbage to sites run by giant garbage handler **Waste Management Inc.** because of an ordinance that prohibits the city from doing business with companies whose officials have been convicted of bribery or bid-rigging. The garbage will be redistributed among other city trash haulers at their current prices, said Streets and Sanitation Commissioner John Halpin on Tuesday. Under the ordinance, the city cannot award a contract to the Oak Brook company for 3 years. Before the prohibition went into effect, **Waste Management** disposed of 400 to 700 tons of the 5,000 tons of garbage that city crews collect daily...In December, Corporation Counsel Judson Miner notified Streets and Sanitation that it would have to cease doing business with **Waste Management** by Feb. 1 to comply with the city ordinance...The case that triggered the city's response involved officials of **Ohio Waste Systems**, a Toledo subsidiary of **Waste Management**, who were

convicted in October 1987, on antitrust charges that dates from 1981, according to **Waste Management** spokesman William Plunkett...Most of **Waste Management's** business in Chicago involves private contracts to collect garbage from businesses and large apartment buildings not served by city crews. The city order does not affect those contracts...Under the same ordinance, the city is now also prohibited from doing business with **Browning-Ferris Inc.**, the chief competitor of **Waste Management**. Minor could not be reached Tuesday for an explanation of what had triggered that order. The city currently sends no garbage to **Browning-Ferris** sites. But because of the prohibition, it will not be able to sign contracts with the company for three years..." Chicago Tribune, 2-1-89, Section 2, page 3.

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