Waste Not

The Weekly Reporter for rational resource management

#44

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

February 28, 1989

CORRECTION TO WASTE NOT #42: The **Combustion Engineering** incinerator in Detroit is a Refuse Derived Fuel (**RDF**) and not a Mass-Burn incinerator.

MICHIGAN: DETROIT'S COMBUSTION ENGINEERING 4000 TPD INCINERATOR - PART 2.

Combustion Engineering boiler blows. According to information received by **Waste Not** the Detroit incinerator had a boiler blow around February 17. According to our sources the temperature was about 3000 degrees higher than it should have been in the boiler when it blew. No one was hurt. 6 workers barely escaped burning ashes.

Incinerator shut down until ash is classified. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources **(DNR)** has told Detroit it cannot landfill the incinerator ash until the **DNR** classifies it. The incinerator continued burning while storing the ash on site. Currently there are approx 20-30 covered ash trucks on site, with many piles of ash covered. According to workers the ash from the piles blows. There were rumors that the city was dumping the ash in city-owned landfills. After those rumors were out the **DNR** has been watching the incinerator. The incinerator is shut down until ash is classified.

DNR releases the incinerator ash tests, which according to the Director of the **DNR,** 'indicate the ash is hazardous.' The City of Detroit refused to allow **DNR** to take ash samples from the incinerator. The **DNR** had to go to the Sumpter Township landfill where the ash was dumped, and they collected 24 ash samples. **DNR** released the EP Toxicity test results on March 6,1989, which revealed the average of the 24 ash samples: **Lead** at **5.814** mg/l and **cadmium** at **1.079** mg/l. **DNR** is in the process of performing confirmatory tests, by testing other samples taken from the ash landfill in Sumpter Township. Jay Palter of **Greenpeace** expressed concern that the ash samples were taken from the ash landfill and that the ash could have been there for up to four months, at which time significant leaching of the metals could have occurred.

CONNECTICUT: COMBUSTION ENGINEERING'S HARTFORD 2000 TPD RDF INCINERATOR SUFFERS EXPLOSION THAT RIPS ROOF OFF TRASH PLANT. "A steel roof over the primary shredder at the Mid-Connecticut trash-to-energy plant was partially blown off by an explosion yesterday, but no injuries were reported and officials were uncertain of the cause." 1-13-89, Norwich Bulletin. The explosion was caused by a propane-tank and caused a temporary shutdown of the plant.

CONNECTICUT: MORE TROUBLE AT COMBUSTION ENGINEERING'S HARTFORD INCINERATOR. "The plant has been hampered by delays, fires, design problems, technical malfunctions and explosions since it began start-up operations in the fall of 1987. (See **Waste Not #30**). ...For lack of a spare part, the Mid-Connecticut plant in the South Meadows will be able to process trash at only half of its capacity until the part arrives and is installed next week, Connecticut Resources REcovery Authority **(CREA)** officials said Thursday. The authority last week estimated it would take five to six weeks to get the part -a rotor shaft for a refuse shredder- from the manufacturer. But the company that built the plant, **Combustion Engineering Inc.**, has agreed to fly the needed part from a plant built in Honolulu. The cost of the part and shipping and handling will be about $100,000...The project cost rises $100,000 for each day the plant runs at half-capacity said Michael Reardon, director of plants and maintenance for the Metropolitan District Commission, which operates the trash-processing equipment at the plant. That figure, he said, is based on energy revenues not generated and on the cost of dumping trash at a landfill instead of processing it at the plant...Because the Metropolitan District was operating the plant when the rotor was damaged, the district and the authority are responsible for its repair, James Aiello (director of governmental and public affairs for **Combustion Engineering**) said..." Hartford Courant, 1-20-89.

COMBUSTION ENGINEERING IS ONE OF THE TOP 17 CORPORATE FUNDERS FOR PBS-TV. **PBS-TV** listed **Combustion Engineering** among its top 17 corporate funders for the fiscal year 1988. Also incuded were: **Weyerhauser, MObil, Exon, Chevron.** The **PBS-TV** series **"Only One Earth"** was funded by **Waste Management Inc** together with **Tetrapak, Inc.** **Waste Not** contacted **National Public Radio** to enquire about their top corporate funders, but they would not release the information.

STUDY SHOWS LEAD IN WASTE STREAM UP, WHILE CADMIUM MORE THAN DOUBLES IN 30 YEARS. The EPA Criteria and Assessment Group commissioned **Franklin Associates** (Kansas City, Kansas) to do a study on **"The Characterization of Products Containing Lead and Cadmium in Municipal Solid Waste in the U.S.: 1970-2000."** Preliminary results were presented by Marjorie Franklin at a solid waste conference held in San Diego, CA, on January 31. According to Franklin, the figures "did not include recycled materials, sewage sludge, or materials such as building demolition wastes that do not always end up in the municipal solid waste stream...Both metals are toxic and considered easily leachable in landfills. They also are concentrated and highly mobile in incinerator ash." According to Franklin "between 160 million tons and 220 million tons of garbage is produced annually in the U.S." The report's findings:

LEAD	1970	1986	2000 (Projected)
TOTAL AMOUNT IN WASTE STREAM	164,800 tons	213,000 tons	218,900 tons
LEAD ACID BATTERIES	84,000 tons	138,000 tons	181,500 tons
CONSUMER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (TV picture tubes & printed circuit boards)	12,000 tons	58,000 tons	85,000 tons

After these largest lead-containing items in the waste stream came **glass ceramics, plastics, pigments (inks & dyes), and light bulbs.** "Franklin said about 75% of auto batteries are recycled."

CADMIUM	1970	1986	2000 (Projected)
TOTAL AMOUNT IN WASTE STREAM	1,196 tons	1,788 tons	2,684 tons
HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES	53 tons	930 tons	2,035 tons
PLASTICS	342 tons	502 tons	380 tons

"Franklin said many of these batteries were rechargeable nickel-cadmium cells that are housed inside appliances and are therefore particularly difficult to remove from the waste stream." Franklin predicted that the cadmium in plastics would drop as a result of industrial changes. Environment Reporter, Current Developments, 2-3-89, pgs 2064-65.

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The **Franklin Associates** report is available from the **EPA** by calling the EPA hotline number **1-800-424-9346.** **Waste Not** found this hotline number to be consistently engaged. If you have the same difficudlty, you can request this report by writing to Paul Kaldjian, US EPA, 401 M Street SW, Room 2417, OS301, Washington, DC 20460.

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