

## OHIO: COLUMBUS' 2000 TPD RDF INCINERATOR FUELED BY TAX SUBSIDIES.

The Columbus incinerator went on line in 1983. The boilers were manufactured by **Babcock & Wilcox**. "Columbus' trash-burning power plant, fueled by \$93 million in tax subsidies in the last six years, is causing new financial headaches for the city, City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian said last week. Dorrian said Mayor Dana G. Rinehart's administratin 'has not recognized the possible severity of this situation.' City Councilman Thomas L. Kaplin called the situation 'a potential management disaster.' The trash plant, billed as a self-sustaining operation when it opened in 1983, has required annual subsidies of \$11 million to \$18 million. At the end of every year since 1983, the city has funneled money from its special income tax fund to cover deficits at the trash plant and related operations, such as street lighting. The financial picture worsened in the last few weeks of 1988 when it became obvious the Division of Electricity, which oversees the trash plant, would be unable to pay its bills by the end of the year. The division was in the red despite a \$15.1 million subsidy. As a result, Dorrian withdrew certification for payment of nearly \$3 million in bills, in effect taking away the Division of Electricity's checkbook ...The division ended the year \$81,727 in the red, the first time in many years that a city division could not pay its bills, Dorrian said. 'I was not a supporter of the trash plant. It was presented to the public through rose-colored glasses,' Dorrian said. 'But it's with us in 1989. These subsidies are not going to go away. We have to find a way to control them. The top administratin has not paid enough attention to this matter.' ... (City Councilman Kaplin said) 'The Mayor wants a sports arena. If we had that \$14 million a year we're spending on subsidies, we could build a sports arena...'"

Columbus Dispatch, 1-15-89.

## ELECTRICITY SUBSIDIES FOR THE COLUMBUS, OHIO 2000 TPD INCINERATOR

1983	\$11.8 million
1984	16.6 million
1985	18.6 million
1986	15.1 million
1987	15.8 million
1988	15.1 million

Source: City Auditor

## NEW JERSEY: BLOUNT'S 400 TPD INCINERATOR IN WARREN COUNTY FINED \$180,000 FOR AIR

POLLUTION VIOLATIONS AND FAILURE TO KEEP RECORDS. The 400 tpd mass-burn incinerator, owned and operated by **Blount**, went on line in July 1988. (See **Waste Not #18, 23, 38**). "...the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) levied \$180,000 in fines against **Warren Energy Resource Co.**, a division of **Blount Energy Resources Corp.**, of Montgomery, Ala., for violating state air pollution standards...The burner either exceeded the amount of particulates allowed in its emissions or bypassed the emission control equipment -or baghouse-18 times on 15 separate days between July 11, 1988, and Feb. 9, 1989. The plant started operating on July 3, 1988...According to the DEP, the company also failed to notify the DEP of many of the violations, did not continually monitor the boiler temperature for 57 days, and did not keep records for 134 days. The DEP didn't count 71 days for which the DEP previously cited the company because it did not keep records. According to the DEP, **Warren Energy** officials failed to keep records a total of 205 days, or 100% of the time that the plant operated between July 5, 1988, and Jan. 25, 1989. The company was fined \$2,000 for each violation. Staples said the company faced fines of up to \$10,000 for the infractions. In addition, the DEP fined the company \$114,000 for not monitoring and recording the boiler's temperature, and fined it \$26,800 for not maintaining log records. Staples attributed (the) violations to 'technical mishaps or human ones'...**Blount** is soley responsible for running the plant according to Pollution Control Financing Authority Director Bart Carhart, who referred all questions to the company. Company officials released no additional information..."

Easton Express, PA, 3-10-89. (Note: James Staples is a NJ DEP spokesman).

**NEW YORK: ROCHESTER ABANDONS INCINERATOR PLAN.** "The city has abandoned plans to study whether to construct a garbage incinerator near the Inner Loop downtown. Officials today said several changes in the past year -including the possibility of tougher environmental rules- persuaded them not to ask City Council to approve the \$505,000 study...(Edward J. Doherty, environmental services commissioner) said the 16-month study wouldn't be valid because environmental officials may enact more stringent regulations on incinerators, possibly boosting the cost of an incinerator. By scrapping the proposed study, the city is turning down a \$225,000 grant from the **N.Y. state Energy Research and Development Agency**. The city would have paid the remaining costs...Other reasons for scrapping the study include: The 'significant progress' made by Monroe County in developing a landfill in Riga...The success of the city's newspaper recycling program...The possibility of stricter requirements for disposing incinerator ash... (Rochester) had announced the incinerator proposal days after former Monroe County Executive Lucien A. Morin unveiled a plan to build a county incinerator off Lee Road in the City. Morin lost in his re-election bid (Nov 1988), and his successor, Democratic County Executive Thomas R. Frey, has abandoned those plans, preferring recycling and landfills." Rochester, NY, Times Union, 2-6-89, front page.

**CALIFORNIA: WASTE MANAGEMENT INVOLVED IN THE LARGEST CRIMINAL ANTITRUST CASE IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY.** "In the culmination Monday of the biggest criminal antitrust case in California history, a \$1 million fine will be paid by **Waste Management of California, Inc.**, the local branch of the nation's largest solid-waste disposal firm (**Waste Management Inc.**). **Waste Management** and several other large haulers were accused of 'blitzing' competitors who refused to go along by offering their customers lower, often 'predatory,' below-cost rates. The case began more than three years ago when the district attorney's office received a letter from **Carry All Disposal**, a Pica Rivera firm that picks up trash from commercial outlets in South Gate and Cudahy. **Carry All** said its trucks were being followed by agents of **GSX Corp.**, a chief competitor. Once **GSX** learned of **Carry All's** customers, **GSX** then 'blitzed' them, offering better prices in an attempt to eliminate its competitor. When Mike Delaney and Tom Papageorge got a letter from a small Los Angeles commercial-waste hauler in October, 1985, complaining of harassment from competitors, the two Los Angeles County prosecutors were not surprised. Several years earlier, Papageorge had looked into similar allegations of price-fixing and conspiracy against trade in the cut-throat multimillion-dollar industry. But he didn't get very far because of the industry's unusually clannish nature, reinforced by many familial ties. 'It's a difficult industry to break into,' the deputy district attorney recalled. But this time, Papageorge and Delaney got a big break. Their investigator turned up an insider who spilled the beans. The case is the largest criminal antitrust case in California history. In addition to **Waste Management's** no-contest plea, two of its officials and several other defendants also entered no-contest pleas in Los Angeles Municipal Court on Monday." Los Angeles Times, 3-14-89.

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