

MAINE: LEWISTON CITY COUNCIL VOTES 7-0 TO "INDEFINATELY POSTPONE" PROPOSED KTI INCINERATOR.

"...the City Council on Tuesday (May 2nd) voted 7-0 to indefinitely postpone negotiating with **KTI Energy Inc.** on a proposed waste incinerator here. In the same motion, made at its regular meeting, the council directed Mayor Maurice Labbe to appoint a task force to investigate methods of solid-waste disposal...(Dr. Klaus Kuck) presented the mayor with petitions opposing the incinerator. Kuck said the petitions have about 2,000 signatures, including those of 66 area physicians who were concerned about the potential health effects of the facility...An ash spill Saturday at **KTI's** Biddeford incinerator also helped influence him against the company's plans, Labbe said. Problems at that plant were cited again Tuesday night by councilors as reasons for opposing negotiating on a host-city agreement with **KTI** to locate an incinerator here. Noise, ash spills and odor are problems **KTI** has acknowledged at the Biddeford plant but says it is working to fix..." *Sun Metro, Maine, 5-3-89, pg. 13.*

MINNESOTA: MINNEAPOLIS 1,000 TPD BLOUNT INCINERATOR, NEARLY BUILT, HAS OFFICIALS WORRIED ABOUT MERCURY EMISSIONS.

This **Blount** 1,000 tpd mass-burn incinerator has been constructed against a backdrop of intense resident-opposition. It is due to go on line in August 1989. Residents and environmental groups have continued throughout its construction to inform county and state officials about the previously-unexamined dangers of this incinerator which will be sited in the heart of Minneapolis. "Hennepin County officials for the first time are admitting they are concerned that mercury that will come out of the new Hennepin County garbage incinerator may violate air pollution standards. As a result, the county is trying to get a bill through the Legislature that would put a special sales tax on household batteries, with the money to be used by counties to set up battery collection and recycling systems. Batteries for everything from portable radios and flashlights to hearing aids contain mercury, and the **battery manufacturing industry is the largest mercury user in the U.S.**, said Rep. Jean Wagenius, DFL-Minneapolis, who is sponsoring the **battery recycling bill**. Garbage incinerators do not destroy the mercury, but rather, release it into the air, she said. That situation has not escaped the attention of incinerator opponents. Leslie Davis of **Earth Protectors** environmental group has asked the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to revoke the permit for the incinerator, which will burn 1,000 tons of garbage per day when it begins operating near downtown Minneapolis this summer. He plans to argue at a PCA committee hearing next month that 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of mercury a year will come out of the incinerator and that because the mercury attacks the central nervous system and the brain, it represents a health hazard. Wagenius told a House committee earlier this month that pollution control devices grab about 99% of the heavy metals such as lead and cadmium coming out of incinerator smokestacks. They capture only 50% to 80% of the mercury, she added. 'State-of-the-art incinerators do not remove mercury as efficiently as they remove other metals and pollution,' Wagenius said. The alternative is to keep as much mercury as possible out of the incinerator, she said. Her bill would place a 2% sales tax on household batteries, and the money would go to help counties set up battery recycling and disposal facilities. There are plants in the U.S. that remove and reuse the mercury from batteries, Wagenius said. Charles Dayton, who was hired by Hennepin County to lobby for the battery recycling bill, told the legislative committee that tests at two of the newest incinerator built, in Marion County, Ore., and Commerce, Calif., released more mercury than would be allowed under the Hennepin County permit. Those findings raised questions on how well the Hennepin County incinerator would do, said Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Spartz, an incinerator proponent. 'Based on Marion County (**Ogden Martin**) being state of the art, I would have some concern,' he said. Commissioner Mark Andrew, another incinerator proponent, said he thinks the mercury standard will be met, but if it fails, 'We will have to shut the

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facility down..." St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch, 4-27-89. For further information contact Leslie Davis, **Earth Protector Inc.**, 1138 Plymouth Building, Minneapolis MN 55402. Tel: 612-375-0202.

CALIFORNIA: OGDEN MARTIN WANTS ASH FROM 800 TPD MASS-BURN INCINERATOR IN STANISLAUS COUNTY DECLARED NON-TOXIC.

"The owner (**Ogden Martin**) of Stanislaus County's garbage burning plant has asked the state to classify the ash produced as non-toxic despite initial tests that show the ash contains higher than allowable levels of lead. It would cost Stanislaus residents \$7 million a year if the request is denied and the 52,000 tons of ash produced each year at the Crows Landing plant had to be taken to a special landfill licensed to accept hazardous waste, said Gordon Dewers, county Environmental Resources Department director...**Ogden Martin**, which built the plant and operates it for Stanislaus County and Modesto, has asked the state Department of Health Services and the Regional Water Quality Control Board for the variance. If the state agrees, the ash could be dumped in a regular landfill. But even with the non-hazardous ash classification the county is banking on, the ash will go to lined and monitored 'monofills' that would prevent any chemical from the ash from leaching into the ground and perhaps into the groundwater, Dewers said. The monofill is one huge hole - 40 to 50 feet deep and covering 6 1/2 acres - at the Fink Road landfill next to the garbage plant. That one hole is expected to take five years' worth of ash. Five more will be dug over the 30-year life of the plant, Dewers said. The garbage plant, the first of its kind in the San Joaquin Valley and the third in the state, began burning its full complement of 800 tons a day of garbage last September. Last December, samples of the remaining ash were tested by two laboratories for toxic materials. The only compound found in higher than allowable levels was lead. It measured 38 parts per million in a test that exposed the ash to acid...The state starts to get concerned about ash lead content when it is higher than 5 parts per million, but in the past has allowed other waste, like shredded automobile parts and lead-contaminated soil from construction sites, to be dumped in regular landfills. The county doesn't want to dump the ash in a regular landfill because it would take up too much room. But a reclassification to a non-hazardous material would remove the 'stigma' from the hazardous ash, Dewers said... the state's Solid Waste Management Board (is) a staunch supporter of burning garbage instead of dumping it in landfills...(Board spokesman, Christopher Peck) acknowledged **it's unlikely more garbage burners will be built in the state in the next five to ten years because of the public's concern over air emissions and toxic-ash disposal.**"

Modesto Bee, CA, 2-28-89.

INCINERATORS PRODUCE FEWER JOBS THAN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND ALTERNATIVES. "A 1986 study by the New York State Recycling Forum estimated that recycling 10,000 tons of material would produce 36 jobs. By contrast, an equivalent amount of landfilling would produce six jobs, and an incinerator would create about 0.9 jobs per 10,000 tons of burned trash." (Craig McDonald, director of Public Citizen's Congress Watch, Washington, DC) Newsday, NY, 9-28-88.

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