

**PENNSYLVANIA: LEHIGH VALLEY ABANDONS PLANS FOR \$180 MILLION AMERICAN REF-FUEL INCINERATOR. INCINERATOR PROPOSALS FOR HANOVER & LEWISTOWN ALSO STOPPED.**

"...Last month the Lehigh Valley Solid Waste Authority abandoned its 4-year old plans for a \$180 million mass-burn incinerator, even though it had already spent \$2 million on the project. The decision was based mainly on economic concerns of risk and liability... After a local law firm researched the municipalities' incinerator contracts and issued a 60-page report, municipal officials started taking a more critical look at the incinerator, Seiss (SAVE spokesman) said. Officials learned the contractor, **American Ref-Fuel Co.**, exempted itself from liability while requiring municipalities to give up their tort claim liability cap. The contract also passed the cost of retrofitting, which might be required by new laws from the EPA or the Dept. of Environmental Resources, back to the municipalities. It also required the municipalities to pay the full amount of the contract over 20 years, whether or not they had the volume of trash...Bethlehem, the host municipality, objected to the contractor's plans to import trash from NJ. It put a 25-mile, in-state limit on trash origin. With that limitation, **American Ref-Fuel** was unwilling to assume the financial risk. 'If incineration has to get by on scientific and economic merits, there wouldn't be a single incinerator in the world,' Seiss said...The Lehigh Valley officials weren't the only ones to hear money talk. Incinerator projects in **Hanover** and **Lewistown** were also scrapped recently due to economic consideration, said a DER official in the Harrisburg Region..." Sunday News, Lancaster, PA, 2-19-89. For more information contact Al Seiss, **SAVE** (Saucon Assoc. for a Viable Environment), PO Box 26, Coopersburg, PA 18036.

**VIRGINIA: OGDEN MARTIN'S 975 TPD INCINERATOR IN ALEXANDRIA TO GET \$2.3 MILLION UPGRADE TO CURB AIR POLLUTION AND ODORS.**

This incinerator became operational in September 1987. "The Alexandria City Council voted last night to spend nearly \$1 million to further reduce air pollution and odor at its waste-to-energy plant in Eisenhower Valley. Nearly two years after the plant began operating, the Council joined Arlington County in endorsing a task force's recommendation that the city and county add a fourth field to remove particles from the plant's smoke, and further enclose an area where garbage is dumped before burning. The fourth field is to be added to the plant's electrostatic precipitator, a device that uses an electric charge to remove ash and dust from hot gasses before they leave the plant's smokestack. The cost for the fourth field -to be split by the localities, with the city paying about 40%- is \$1.8 million. Further enclosing an area for garbage awaiting incineration is to cost \$500,000. The move is designed to help control odors around the plant..." Alexandria Journal, 3-29-89.

**NEW JERSEY: ATLANTIC COUNTY INCINERATOR PROPOSAL IN TROUBLE.**

"An oversight by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) over the county's plan to burn its trash by 1991 could delay the project for years or kill it altogether. The DEP failed to fully consider the implications of locating an incinerator near the **Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge**, one of 23 so-called 'Class One' areas in the country that are protected by the strictest air quality standards on the books. The Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA)...didn't fully understand what they were getting when they decided to build an incinerator upwind from a Class One area...(the DEP) said they didn't know about the restrictions concerning Class One areas until recently...In fact, the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge is the only Class One area in NJ, and only one of a handful on the East Coast...(The ACUA) have spent 3 years and \$7 million in taxpayer dollars preparing a solid-waste management plan the state mandated. 'The feasibility of the project is in question,' said John Armstrong, ACUA vice-president...In essence, the legislation places restrictions on any new pollution source within 100 kilometers of a protected area (The Atlantic County incinerator

would be about 8 kilometers -5 miles- away)... " The Press, Atlantic City, 5-12-89.

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE: SIGNAL'S 200 TPD INCINERATOR IN CLAREMONT AIR QUALITY MONITOR FAILS**

**TEST.** "State environmental officials have told **Signal Environmental Systems** to replace inaccurate air-quality monitoring equipment at the company's Claremont incinerator... While actual emissions of carbon monoxide at the waste-to-energy plant are 'very, very low,' the device that measures the level of carbon monoxide failed an accuracy test, according to Don Davis of the Air Resources Division of the State Department of Environmental Services. Davis said **Signal** representatives told him at a meeting yesterday that replacing the equipment could cost \$80,000 to over \$100,000, depending on the system they choose...**Signal** owns and operates the incinerator under a 20 year contract with the 28 towns in the NH/VT Solid Waste Project...The contract requires the project to pay for construction of the incinerator, including all pollution control equipment...This week's order was issued because it was already clear that **Signal** was not going to meet the state's April 30 deadline for resolving the accuracy question, he said. As a result, **Signal** will be given yet another extension of their temporary air emissions permit, Davis said. The company has been operating under a temporary permit since it fired up the incinerator more than two years ago. Davis said **Signal** still hasn't qualified for a permanent permit for two reasons: the company has repeatedly failed to respond to some state requests for information, and the federal EPA has spent a great deal of time reviewing the information the company has submitted. At a meeting yesterday in Springfield, VT, members of the project's executive committee approved the purchase of a \$27,000 plastic cover for the landfill the project built for the ash from **Signal's** incinerator...Currently, the project trucks any water that leaches through the ash to a hazardous waste facility in Connecticut. This month alone, the cost of handling the leachate will approach \$100,000, according to Project Manager John Cook. The plastic cover will be used to divert rainfall from the ash-covered portion of the landfill onto an unused portion, where it can be collected separately and channelled into the site's storm-water run off system...The project's executive committee voted to purchase a .32 acre-plot of land...(which) lies downhill from the landfill and borders on the river... a \$17,000 purchase price has been negotiated...Although little could be done to remedy any groundwater pollution that occurred, the project would run the risk of a lawsuit if someone else owned the land...The project is also disputing a \$93,764 bill it received from **Signal** for having sent more garbage to the incinerator thanit supposedly agreed to send...Since last August, project officials said yesterday, verbal agreements with **Signal** have changed the guaranteed tonnage four times. There is still no written agreement on how much garbage the project can send to the incinerator, officials said ..." Valley News, NH, 4-27-89. For more inforamtion contact Katie Lajoie, RR 1, Box 417, Charlestown, NH 03603. Tel: 603-826-4803. **Waste Not** plans an in-depth focus on the Claremont incinerator.

#### **WASHINGTON: STRANGE ENDORSEMENTS FROM DEPT. OF ECOLOGY ON HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATORS.**

Recently citizens of the Eastern part of Washington state, confronted with a proposal to build a haz. waste incinerator in Lind, a farming area, asked the WA. Dept. of Ecology to list some commercial haz. waste incinerators which the Dept. thought were good. In a letter dated 1-6-89, Mr. Timothy NOrd gave a list of 5 haz. waste incinerators which he though were "well designed and operated." These five were: the Rollins plants in DeerPark, TX, and Bridgeport, NJ; two on-site incinerators in Circleville, OH, and Selkirk, NY; and **LWD** in Calvert City, KY! Those who might like a second opinion should watch the PBS-TV program, **Frontline**, "Who is Killing Calvert City," to be broadcast 6-20-89. More information on Calvert City can be obtained in a video tape, "Calvert City: Kentucky's Best Kept Secret," a 60 min. video available for \$25 from **Videoactive Productions**, Box 322, Canton, NY 13617. Information on the track record of the other haz. waste incinerators listed can be obtained from: **Citizens Clearing House for Hazardous Waste**, PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216. Tel: 703-276-7070.

#### **Waste Not # 56**

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