

# Waste Not

The Weekly Reporter  
for rational  
resource management

#64

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

July 20, 1989

**PLASTIC BAGS CONTINUE TO KILL MARINE MAMMALS.** "A plastic shopping bag may have killed a beaked whale that died at the NY Aquarium in Brooklyn Thursday, four days after it was stranded in shallow water off Long Island. The whale's stomach was filled and partially blocked with plastic debris it had ingested from the ocean, a statement from the Okeanos Research Foundation said. 'This probably caused the animal significant distress, possible dehydration, malnutrition, and may have contributed to its beaching and subsequent death,' the statement said. The shopping bag had markings indicating it originated in Bermuda..." *Watertown Daily Times* (NY), 7-21-89, page 2. **Editors: There is no evidence to date that a whale has ever been killed by ingestion of a paper bag.**

**OHIO: FIRE SHUTS DOWN 2,200 TPD RDF COLUMBUS INCINERATOR.** The Columbus incinerator went on line in December 1983. The plants burns an average of 1,600 to 2,200 tpd of municipal solid waste. "The Columbus trash-burning power plant is shut down -part of it for up to three months- following an electrical fire Tuesday night. The plant, at 2500 Jackson Pike, was shut down at 10:15 pm Tuesday after a white-hot fire -possibly sparked by faulty electrical relays- melted expensive custom-made electrical equipment. The fire caused a power outage that affected much of the South Side. No one was injured in the hot, smokey fire, although two workers were stranded in a crane for about 45 minutes. They were rescued by firefighters...Repairs to the five-year-old plant are expected to cost \$800,000 to \$1 million, said Kirk McCoy, a spokesman for the Division of Electricity...The repair cost may be covered, in part, by insurance, officials said. The city's catastrophic insurance coverage with **Factory Mutual Insurance Co.** has \$100,000 deductible. McCoy said repairs are being made to bring two of the six boilers back in service today. Two other boilers are expected to be back on-line late Friday or early Saturday. But repairs to some of the specialized electrical equipment will likely keep the other two boilers out of commission for two to three months, McCoy said. In the meantime, the city is purchasing electrical power from a network of electric companies to supply the 10,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers it serves...(The ash is) mixed with limestone sand to neutralize it. About 450 tons of ash and limestone mixture is sent daily to the landfill. Officials said even after four of the boilers are back in operation, up to 800 tons of trash may have to be taken to the landfill daily. The increased cost to the city of purchasing electrical power and the additional tipping fees have not been estimated." *Columbus Dispatch*, 5-31-89.

**MISSOURI: WHEELABRATOR ABANDONS KANSAS CITY INCINERATOR PROPOSAL.** "Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. has abandoned its efforts to start a local trash incinerator business, Kansas City Power & Light Co. (KCP&L) announced Wednesday. Wheelabrator made the decision because 'the necessary public and political support for the waste-to-energy project had not materialized,' according to a statement from KCP&L, which had teamed up with Wheelabrator on the incineration efforts. In March 1988 Wheelabrator proposed to build a waste-to-energy plant on the north side of the Missouri River near Interstate 435. Later that year, the company said it might build a trash incinerator in Sugar Creek instead. The KCP&L statement said Wheelabrator may resume its efforts in the Kansas City area if conditions change..." *Kansas City Times*, July 13, 1989. For more information contact George Baggett, 820 W. 35, Kansas City, MO 64111. Tel:816-421-7349.

**MAFIA AND CORRUPT UNIONS HAVE RUN LONG ISLAND'S GARBAGE DISPOSAL INDUSTRY SINCE THE 1950's.** "Long Island's entire garbage disposal industry is the target of a federal racketeering suit charging two Mafia families and a corrupt union have been running a cartel there since the 1950's, costing residents millions of dollars. U.S. Attorney Andres Maloney said Wednesday the civil suit was the largest ever filed by the federal

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government under the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. Maloney said the suit charges the defendants with conspiring to eliminate competition, allowing garbage carters to charge customers high rates without the threat of losing business. Reputed **Lucchese crime-family member Salvatore Avellino** of Queens was identified as the head of the cartel, which allegedly used 'extortion, bribery, arson, vandalism, theft of equipment and bid-rigging' to control the business. Also named was **Lucchese boss Antonio 'Tony Ducks' Corallo**, currently serving a 100-year term at the federal prison in Springfield, MO. The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, names the **Lucchese and Gambino crime families, Teamsters Local 813, the Private Sanitation Industry Association of Nassau Suffolk**, 44 Long Island carting companies and 64 individuals as participants in the scheme to dominate waste disposal. The **Gambino** family controlled **Teamsters Local 813**, which was used to harass competing carters and their customers, the lawsuit charged. Barry Slotnick, the attorney representing the union, dismissed the suit as 'an unfortunate phenomenon created by Congress' with its **RILCO** Act. The suit seeks unspecified triple damages on behalf of the federal facilities on Long Island which have paid higher carting rates due to the alleged racketeering operation..." Watertown Daily Times (NY), 6-8-89, page 6.

**NEW YORK: BROOME COUNTY EXECUTIVE CHARGES FOSTER WHEELER TRIED TO "BUY THE ELECTION" IN EFFORTS TO BUILD 550 TPD MASS-BURN INCINERATOR.**

"Last November, when Democrat Timothy M. Grippen won a stunning election upset over a two-term Broome County county executive, anti-incinerator activists thought they had won. Grippen, a soft-spoken Binghamton public works commissioner who had never run for office before, made the proposed \$69 million trash-to-energy plant one of the two major planks of his campaign. But shortly before Grippen took office, a lame-duck legislature took the plant out of Grippen's reach. The incinerator project was placed into the hands of an independent **Broome County Resource Recovery Agency**, run by a board appointed mainly by Carl S. Young, Grippen's predecessor, and administered by Young's solid waste expert. 'They set up a government in exile,' said Grippen. 'It's a mess.' And now, as the 550-ton-a-day plant is on the verge of being permitted by the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Grippen seems powerless to rein in the runaway agency and carry out his campaign pledge to stop the incinerator. Consider: \* His own solid-waste manager has been excluded from the agency's frequent executive sessions. \* He obtained one agency document only through the help of an anti-incineration group that had obtained it from the DEC through a Freedom of Information Act request. \* Neither Grippen nor anyone else can get their hands on documents showing how the agency picked its vendor. \* Last week, the county executive's heated questioning of agency officials in front of the legislature was cut off because incinerator proponents believed he was taking too long...No one gave Binghamton's commissioner of public works much of a chance in the campaign against Young. The county's agency, then firmly under the county executive's control, seemingly solved the county's quest to build a trash plant by signing a contract for a plant a month before the election. The agency's action was overwhelmingly endorsed by the legislature. But Grippen tied the incinerator, **the largest public-works project in the history of the county**, to skyrocketing property taxes... The agency, in a leaflet partly paid for by **Foster Wheeler**, distributed its own explanation of the trash plant door to door, describing it as 'clean-burning.' Grippen charged that **Foster Wheeler** was trying to 'buy the election.'...Grippen's gripe about the proposed plant...The waste volume estimates are high; the recycling estimates are low, and the tipping fee estimate - \$27 a ton- is unrealistic, even with an **\$8 million subsidy by the state**. The result, predicted Grippen, is that the county will have to import garbage from the rest of the region. In fact, said Grippen, importation enriches **Foster-Wheeler**. Once the trash volume reaches a certain point, the firm would get half, as opposed to one-tenth, of the tipping fees..." The Post-Standard, (NY), 6-26-89, front page. For more information contact Alicia Culver of **NYPIRG** at 607-277-5214.

**Waste Not # 64**  
*A publication of  
 Work On Waste USA,  
 a non-profit corporation dedicated to the  
 promotion of sound resource  
 management policy.*

*Annual Subscription Rate: \$25  
 Students & Seniors: \$15 \$20  
 Consultants &  
 for-profit organizations: \$100.*

*Letters, articles and calls from the public  
 welcome.*

**Paul & Ellen Connett, Editors**  
 82 Judson Street  
 Canton, New York 13617  
 (315)379-9200

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