

GREENPEACE PRODUCES NEW VIDEO ON HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATION

This is an extremely important videotape for any group fighting a hazardous waste incinerator and for officials who have accepted at face value claims by the EPA and other regulatory agencies that hazardous waste incineration poses no threat to human health or the environment. This 35-minute videotape provides graphic and moving testimony from citizens who live near hazardous waste incinerators and those fighting proposed incinerators. Details for ordering the video appear at the end of this report. **Greenpeace** states that "most new hazardous waste incinerators are being proposed in response to an EPA deadline that mandates States have a plan to handle all hazardous waste generated within their borders by October 1989 or face the loss of federal superfund cleanup money." **Greenpeace** underscores the fact that **there is no mandatory requirement that States build hazardous waste incinerators in order to secure superfund cleanup monies, and that in fact, "incineration discourages manufacturers from preventing the generation of waste through source reduction and the development of new clean technologies."** This powerful video explores the promises of hazardous waste incinerator proponents:

PROMISE NUMBER ONE: INCINERATION IS SAFE. "...Even with a 99.99% destruction of materials required by law an incinerator burning 10,000 tons of waste per day will blow one ton of unburned waste into the air each day..."

PROMISE NUMBER TWO: THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROTECT US. "...State and federal environmental agencies have very limited control over the process of hazardous waste incineration. There are no federal limits on the quantities of heavy metals and toxics that incinerators are allowed to emit. No one knows what's coming out of the stacks because no one tests for all the poisonous compounds released by incineration...Governments ability to protect the public is further limited by the existence of hundreds of unpermitted hazardous waste incinerators located within operating chemical plants. Increasingly, these plants burn hazardous waste in boilers and flaring facilities avoiding incinerator permitting processes by using loopholes in the **Resource Conservation & Recovery Act** known as **RCRA**, the federal law that regulates hazardous waste. In the last five years the nation's largest commercial hazardous waste incinerator **Marine Shale Processors** of Amelia, Louisiana, has used this loophole to operate without a permit to burn hazardous waste. **Marine Shale** claims it operates not an incinerator but a recycling facility that produces an allegedly safe material called aggregate...(a **Marine Shale** TV advertisement is shown)...What these **Marine Shale** TV ads don't tell you is that though the companies grossed tens of millions of dollars in the unpermitted, unregulated burning of hazardous waste less than 1% of their income comes from the sales of their aggregate...There have been five cases of neuroblastoma, an extremely rare form of childhood cancer, occurring only once in every 100,000 children, among the children of this small community in a period of two years..." On May 31, 1989, the Louisiana DEQ "suspended all of **Marine Shale Processors** permits. Because **Marine Shale** appealed the DEQ action it still operates today...In Chicago, **Chemical Waste Management** operates a large modern incinerator that burns highly toxic waste including PCB's..." An investigation by the State of Illinois and the US EPA found "disconnected air monitors, improper record keeping, incorrect scrubber water...**the violations were discovered by employees and citizens, not the government.** Though the US EPA did fine the incinerator \$4.5 million the incinerator may be fully permitted in the coming months...A series of explosions destroyed part of the **ENSCO** hazardous waste facility in El Dorado, Arkansas. Ron Southall, the County's Emergency Services coordinator didn't even enter the plant to inspect the damage...The explosion at the **ENSCO**

Printed on recycled paper, naturally

plant could have endangered a city of 30,000. Yet the county's Emergency Services director relied entirely on ENSCO's assessment of the danger to the community..."

PROMISE NUMBER THREE: INCINERATION PROMOTES ECONOMIC GROWTH. According to Kay Kiker of Emelle, Alabama: "Since **Waste Management** came here -they came here promising industries and jobs would come- we had an unemployment rate of 5.8% when they opened up in 1978. Our unemployment rate rose through the year 1986 to 21.1%. We lost eight industries, countless small businesses, 2,000 of our work force left this county. None of the industries said we're leaving because **Waste Management's** here. But our water is polluted here and it's just not the kind of place you would want to raise your family... This is a dying county...The county gets \$5 per ton of waste disposed of here. It goes to our Sheriff's department, our Mayor's salary, the Arts Council, the schools, libraries. People here are bought off..."

"Of the 80 plus hazardous waste incinerators granted Part B permits today a disproportionate number are located in poor rural and urban communities which also happen to be black and hispanic in their population make-up..." At the end of the video a list is shown of the proposed or existing hazardous waste incinerators that have been defeated or shut down. They are:

ALABAMA:

Emelle- **Chemical Waste Management**
 Sumter County- **Livlite**
 Calera- **Blue Circle Cement**

ARIZONA:

Phoenix- **ENSCO**
 Navajo Reserve- **Waste Tech**

CALIFORNIA:

San Diego- **GA Tech-Ogden**
 San Bernadino- **Ogden-Milliken**
 Martinez- **IT Corp**
 Los Angeles- **Advanced Tech Incineration**
 Imperial County- **Ogden Environmental Services**
 Arvin- **Arvin Environmental Services**
 Ione- **Ogden Environmental Services**
 Vernon- **Thermal Treatment Services**

CONNECTICUT:

Middletown- **B.F.I.**
 Waterbury- **Environmental Waste Removal**

INDIANA:

Bloomington- **Westinghouse**

KANSAS:

Sedgewick City- **Chemical Waste Management**
 Wichita- **Vulcan**

KENTUCKY:

Lawrence City- **Pyrochem**
 Louisville- **B.F.I.**

LOUISIANA:

Ascension Parrish- **IT Corp**
 St. Helena- **Zytech**

MAINE:

Hope- **Union Chemical**

MICHIGAN:

Lenawee City- **Augusta Development**
 Flint- **Berline & Farro**
 Utica- **Liquid Disposal**

MINNESOTA:

Shakopee- **ENSCO**
 Staples- **Industrial Waste Conversion**

MISSISSIPPI:

Winona- **ITD**
 Columbus- **State Incinerator**

MISSOURI:

Rockport- **Waste Tech**

NEW YORK:

Oswego- **Pollution Abatement Serv.**

NEVADA:

Castleton- **Disposal Control Service**

OHIO:

E. Liverpool- **Waste Management Inc.**
 Cincinnati- **City Incinerator**
 Reading- **Pristine, Inc.**

OKLAHOMA:

Boise City- **Orlandis Corp.**
 Hughes County- **Royster Waste Recovery**

PENNSYLVANIA:

Yukon- **Mill Services, Inc.**
 Apollo- **Babcock & Wilcox**

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Rockhill- **Thermal Chem**

TEXAS:

Laporte- **Houston Chemical Services**

UTAH:

Cisco- **Co-West Incineration**
 Iron County- **Rollins Environmental Services**

WASHINGTON:

Ritzville- **ECOS**

WEST VIRGINIA:

Nitro- **Pegasus, Inc.**

GREENPEACE'S VIDEO IS CALLED "THE RUSH TO BURN"

Available for \$19.95

from

GREENPEACE - VIDEO DEPARTMENT

1436 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

Printed on recycled paper, naturally

-WASTE NOT # 65