

NEW YORK: FOR THE THIRD TIME IN THREE YEARS STATE OFFICIALS ORDER THE OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORP. TO REDUCE DIOXIN EMISSIONS FROM ITS 2,200 TPD RDF GARBAGE INCINERATOR IN NIAGARA FALLS.

"The state Wednesday (9-20-89) ordered the **Occidental Chemical Corp.** to reduce toxic dioxin emissions from its Energy-from-Waste plant. The company was also ordered to prove the reductions through stack testing. The orders came as the state released a report citing the company's Buffalo Avenue municipal waste incinerator as a major contributor to dioxin levels in air. And they came two weeks after **Occidental** announced it was starting a multimillion dollar program to reduce emissions at the plant which burns garbage to generate steam used in **Occidental's** manufacturing processes...The new requirements will cost **Occidental** an additional \$4 million, said Charles Eggers, the plant's business director. That's on top of \$6 million in improvements already made to the plant, he said. State Department of Environmental Conservation officials said they are pleased with **Occidental's** steps, but will continue to monitor the air and will take legal action if the dioxin levels ever threatens public health or the environment. The plant was this area's top polluter in 1987, according to the US EPA's Toxic Release Inventory. That year, the plant released **3.04 million pounds of toxic chemicals in the area's air, water and land.** The state's air monitoring and stack tests have shown **Occidental's** garbage burning plant is a major contributor to dioxin levels in the area's air. Monitoring in 1987 showed an increased cancer risk ranging from 6.1 to 11.5 additional cases per million people exposed...The 1987 state testing showed **Occidental** releasing 66 nanograms per cubic meter of dioxin...The company's testing the same year showed 112 nanograms per cubic meter of dioxin was being released. Those levels are not considered a health threat, but the state would like **Occidental** to reduce them to 5 nanograms per cubic liter, said Stanley Gubner, DEC's regional air pollution engineer. In simpler terms, **Occidental** is releasing about a pound of dioxin yearly and the state would like it to be about .04 of a pound, Gubner said..." *Niagara Gazette*, September 21, 1989, page 3-A. (Please see **Waste Not #4** for Tom Webster's report on previous tests for dioxin levels at **Occidental's** incinerator in Niagara Falls.) **Waste Not** telephoned the DEC's Region 9 office in Buffalo and spoke with Mr. Armbroust. Mr. Armbroust said the DEC has only run one emission test for dioxins on **Occidental** in 1985. Since then **Occidental** has conducted its own dioxin emissions testing contracting with Mid-West Research Institute. Mr. Armbroust said the DEC will not make any recommendations to **Occidental** for pollution control devices to reduce the high dioxin/furan emissions, revealed in the three tests performed since 1985-- "as the DEC doesn't have the expertise to do the studies (on effective pollution controls)-- the industry was better informed on what to recommend to reduce dioxin emissions." He said that "**Occidental** was going to experiment with a series of dioxin eliminating injection systems," some of which included dry injection of ammonia, amines and sodium-bicarbonate. The latest dioxin report on **Occidental's** incinerator dioxin emissions is available from NY DEC Region 9, 600 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202. In a letter from Fran Edinger to **Waste Not**, 8-20-88, Fran wrote: "The Occidental Petroleum RDF incinerator, which burns garbage from northern Erie County, Niagara County, Canada and emits annually **6 tons lead, 0.25 ton cadmium, 1.5 tons mercury, 0.4 ton nickel, one half pound TCDD equivalents, as well as 2450 tons HCL, 1800 tons NOx and 1500 tons SO₂,** according to NYS DEC. Oxy has no immediate plans to install additional pollution controls, and DEC has no legal leverage to make Oxy do so." Fran went on to say, "According to the League of Women Voters, 'fruits and vegetables grown in the Great Lakes region may be tainted by toxic fallout. A study conducted by the Toronto Department of Public Health found that Toronto residents received approximately 90% of their annual, nonoccupational exposure to toxic substances from eating fresh produce, meat and poultry. Air pollution appears to be a likely source of the toxic residues." For more information contact Fran Edinger, 1042 Willardshire Rd, Orchard Park, NY 14127.

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KENTUCKY: GOOD NEWS FOR THE PEOPLE OF CALVERT CITY. STATE OFFICIALS PROPOSE TO DENY LWD'S HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATOR A PERMIT TO OPERATE.

"Past violations of environmental laws should disqualify LWD Inc. [Liquid Waste Disposal] from operating a hazardous-waste incinerator, state officials said yesterday in disclosing plans to deny the firm an operating permit. The decision -subject to review and a public hearing-would effectively close the large and controversial incinerator in Calvert City that LWD has been operating under temporary authority for nearly a decade. In announcing their plans, state officials cited numerous environmental violations -including air pollution and improper dumping of hazardous wastes- they said were uncovered in recent sworn statements by current and former LWD employees. Officials also cited fines against LWD for failing to address problems with its permit application and pending state charges that LWD officials tried to escape responsibility for cleaning up old wastes by shifting ownership of the property to shell companies...Commissioner of Environmental Protection Art Williams said LWD's actions 'are not consistent with the standards of care and degree of adherence to the law necessary to operate a hazardous-waste storage and treatment facility'...The announcement followed weeks of indecision in the environmental agency, as state officials prepared to deny the permit, then gave LWD a second chance. The permit denial went to Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, officials said. The decision marks the second time state officials have cited a company's prior record in denying a permit for a hazardous-waste incinerator. In rejecting PyroChem Inc.'s application for an incinerator in Lawrence County in 1987, officials cited environmental violations by companies managed by PyroChem's then-president...According to state officials, more than 70% of the waste burned at LWD came from outside Kentucky...LWD had faced a surge of citizen complaints in recent years, including protest marches. The incinerator was a focus of a week-long protest in Calvert City by the environmental group Greenpeace last October and a public-television documentary in June...In a five-page statement detailing their reasons for denying the permit, state officials listed 11 violations of environmental laws that Nichols said surfaced in the recent depositions of approximately 25 current and former LWD employees. The charges include numerous record-keeping violations, improper treatment and disposal of wastes, insufficient monitoring and failure to maintain adequate insurance..." Louisville Courier Journal, September 26, 1989, Front page. For more information contact Corinne Whitehead, **Coalition for Health Concern**, Route 9, Box 25, Benton, KY 42025. Tel: 502-527-1217. Corinne and the members of the Coalition have, against all odds, fought long and hard for the shut-down of LWD. Over the years they have amassed every obtainable document pertaining to the type of wastes disposed of at LWD. The residents of Calvert City had remained united in their determination to open the doors to the secrecy and intimidation that prevailed in their community, and they looked long and hard into trying to understand the rare cancers and high incidence rate of cancer in their community.

LWD TRYING TO SELL TO CHEMICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT.

"An attorney for Liquid Waste Disposal (LWD) said today he doesn't know how the state's preliminary decision not to issue the company an operating permit will affect its potential sale to **Chemical Waste Management Inc.**...LWD owner Amos Shelton was negotiating sale of the company when the state was granted a restraining order in Franklin Circuit Court blocking the sale, claiming LWD had reorganized its corporate structure without cabinet permission. The state also claimed the reorganization illegally transferred some operations to unlicensed subsidiaries..." September 26, 1989, Paducah Sun, Page 8.

SEE WASTE NOT #56 - The Washington Dept. of Ecology- in a letter written 1-6-89 to residents in the eastern part of Washington-stated that LWD's hazardous waste incinerator, along with four other facilities, were "well designed and operated."

Waste Not #72

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