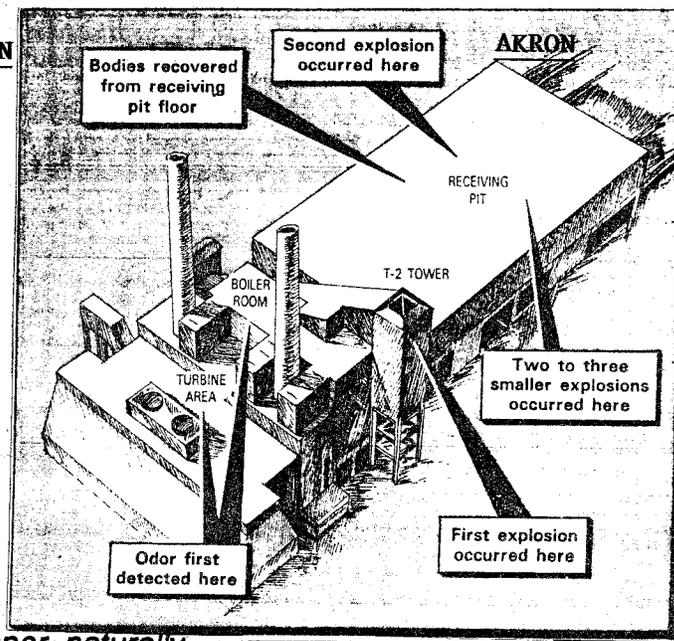


## FLORIDA: EXPLOSION KILLS ONE WORKER AT 2,000 TPD RDF INCINERATOR IN WEST PALM BEACH.

A newly built incinerator, a joint venture of **BECHTEL** and **BABCOCK-WILCOX**, began its 28-day acceptance test run on September 18. On October 9 an explosion occurred in the **oversized bulky waste (OBW)** shredder. Double metal doors blew off the hinges killing one of the employees. In August 1989 a construction worker was killed on the site of this same incinerator. The Occupational Safety & Health Agency (OSHA) had levied small fines previous to the August 1989 accident for safety violations at the construction site. OSHA is now examining both of the accidents which has resulted in two fatalities. According to Tim Hunt, the Executive Director of the **Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (SWA)** liability for the workers killed will be the responsibility of **Bechtel** and **Babcock-Wilcox**. **Bechtel** designed and constructed the facility. **Babcock-Wilcox** will operate the facility under contract with the **SWA**. The building is owned by the **SWA**. **National Ecology** is a sub-contractor under **Babcock-Wilcox** and is responsible for the shredding operations. The RDF incinerator is designed to handle 2,000 tpd with an expansion capacity of 3,000 tpd. The incinerator cost \$176 million. Landfill construction costs (not included in the \$176 million) are approx. \$250,000 per acre for a double lined (HDPE) landfill with leachate collection systems. According to Linda Hodgkins of the **SWA** "after the leachate is treated it will be deep-well injected." The landfill was designed by **Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc.** of Orlando, Fl. The principal consultants to the **SWA** are: **Hayden, Wegman & Inc.** of New York and **S. Barker & Assoc.** of West Palm Beach. According to Tim Hunt the incinerator runs five shredder lines. Three shredder lines are for garbage; one shredder line is for tires, which is then incorporated into the RDF for burning, and one shredder for oversized bulky wastes which shreds large objects, such as appliances and tree trunks. The shredded metal, which at the moment has no value, will either be given to local firms to haul away for recycling, or will be landfilled. It was in the **OBW** shredder that the explosion occurred. Air pollution control devices are: four-field ESP's and a dry scrubber. Recycling plans are underway that include curbside recycling of PET plastics, aluminum, glass, newsprint, and household dry-cell batteries. At the moment 18,000 residential units are on an extended curbside pilot program and in two years time the **SWA** expects to have 360,000 residential units on a curb-side collection program. For more information contact: Eva Fellows, 2904 Bridgewood Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33434. Tel: 407-488-7491.

## OHIO: IN 1984 THREE WORKERS WERE KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION AT AKRON'S RDF INCINERATOR. We have

received several requests for information on the Akron shredder explosion which killed three workers and injured seven others on December 20, 1984. As the map (published in the Akron Beacon Journal, 12-21-84) illustrates, the explosion did not take place in the shredding operation of the plant. The many reports of explosions at RDF incinerators usually do take place in the shredding operation, but it appears that was not the case in Akron. According to a 3-20-85 memo from Steven Romalewski of the **NY Public Interest Research Group**: "...Investigators for the City of Akron believe the explosion on Dec. 20th was caused when toxic-contaminated sawdust in the garbage was ignited by the heat of the boilers, not because of the



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RDF design of the facility. According to these officials, the primary explosion occurred after the garbage had passed through the incinerator's pre-processing state and immediately before it entered the furnaces..." According to the Akron Beacon Journal of 12-21-84, "...Fire officials believe 13 previous explosions reported at the plant were caused by flammable industrial waste deposited in the plant. The plant was closed for three months earlier this year while city officials established new safety procedures..."

**WHEELABRATOR: "BAD DEALS & BROKEN PROMISES: A SURVEY OF WHEELABRATOR'S PERFORMANCE,"**

is the title of **Clean Water Action's** new report. **Clean Water's** study surveyed the experiences of seven out of the ten operating **Wheelabrator** incinerators. "Nearly all of the surveyed communities experienced the following circumstances: \* Payments or subsidies to the communities were far less than originally projected by **Wheelabrator** or city planners... \* Fees (principally tipping fees) were far higher than promised by **Wheelabrator** and projected by municipal planners... \* Contracts with **Wheelabrator** frequently force the municipality to absorb very large capital costs not contained in the original contract [i.e. retrofitting]... \* Similarly, where electric rates drop, the contracts have been written such that the communities --and not **Wheelabrator**-- absorb the loss. \* When trash volume from outside towns is less than projected, host communities earn much less than **Wheelabrator** promised during the proposal stage. In short, the deals assure **Wheelabrator** millions of dollars in profits over the life of an incinerator, while major risks and costs are borne by the public..." The ten incinerators that **Wheelabrator** have built appear below. Those with an \* indicate the incinerators surveyed by **Clean Water**.

INCINERATOR LOCATION	SIZE/ TPD	OPERATIONAL DATE	OWNER	OPERATOR	AIR POLLUTION CONTROLS
CT: BRIDGEPORT *	2,250	July 1988	WHEELABRATOR	WHEELABRATOR	Scrubber/baghouse
FL: ST. PETERSBURG*	2,000 1,000	May 1983 Nov 1986	PINELLAS COUNTY	"	ESP's
FL: TAMPA	1,000	Sept 1985	WHEELABRATOR	"	ESP
MD: BALTIMORE	2,250	May 1985	"	"	ESP's
MA: MILLBURY *	1,500	Nov 1987	"	"	ESP's/Dry Scrubber
MA: NO. ANDOVER*	1,500	Sept 1985	"	"	ESP's
MA: SAUGUS *	1,500	Oct 1975	" (50%)	"	ESP's
NH: CLAREMONT *	200	May 1987	WHEELABRATOR	"	Scrubber/baghouse
NH: CONCORD	500	Apr 1989	"	"	Baghouse
NY: PEEKSKILL *	2,250	Oct 1984	"	"	ESP's

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**Clean Water Action** reports on **Wheelabrator's** ties to **Waste Management Inc.** "WMI owns 22% of **Wheelabrator Technologies**, the parent company of **Wheelabrator Environmental Systems.**" In this report **Clean Water Action** suggests a number of rational recommendations for communities who want to develop a solid waste management plan: "...The study to develop a sensible solid waste plan should be conducted by independent contractors who understand the potential for recycling, and who are not aligned with the incinerator industry..." **Clean Water Action's** report should be made available to all officials involved with **Wheelabrator** proposals. This 27-page report costs \$7.50 and is available from **Clean Water Action**, 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003. Tel: 202-546-6616.

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