

# Waste Not

The Weekly Reporter  
for rational  
resource management

# 77

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

NOVEMBER 9, 1989

**URGENT: HELP NEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO STOP KENTUCKY OUTRAGE.** Once in a while the citizens of a state are fortunate enough to get an official in one of its regulatory agencies who genuinely believes in the environment and has the courage to stand up to the power brokers who run the industrial-regulatory complex. Kentucky had such an official. His name is Dan Harker. Many of our readers probably saw him interviewed in the PBS Front-line program which dealt with the pollution from the LWD hazardous waste incinerator in **Calvert City** (broadcast nationally on 6-22-89). On Wednesday, November 22nd, (yes, the day before Thanksgiving) at 3:30 pm, Dan Harker was given the sack and just one hour to vacate his office. Carl Bradley, Head of Kentucky's Natural Resources department signed the letter which offered no reasons for Harker's dismissal. This action is believed by citizens and Kentucky newspaper editors alike to have come in response to his fearless stance in opposing the permitting of the LWD hazardous waste incinerator (see **Waste Not #72**) and his refusal to go along with plans to weaken regulations on landfill permits. This act by the Kentucky authorities is an act of utter cynicism. It is not just an act against the citizens of Kentucky who want to see a halt to the widespread abuse of their environment, but an act against all citizens of the U.S.A. who wish to see the regulation of our environment in the hands of honest, courageous and caring men and women, not the "yes-men" to plundering industry. None of us who care about these issues can afford to let this man go without a fight. Please take the time out to write, phone, fax, or telegram Governor Wallace G. Wilkinson, State Capital Building, Frankfort, KY 40601, and register your disgust at this shortsighted and cynical act. The Governor's telephone number is 502-564-2611 and his office Fax number is 502-564-2735.

**GREENPEACE REPORT ON LWD INC. HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATOR JUST PUBLISHED - VIDEO ON LWD AND CALVERT CITY POLLUTION AVAILABLE FROM VIDEOACTIVE PRODUCTIONS.** Greenpeace has just published their report on LWD Inc. LWD stands for Liquid Waste Disposal. This is a 50 page report that supports the findings that LWD has actively attempted to thwart governmental oversight; that LWD's representatives have used intimidation and political maneuvering to prevent citizen oversight; that LWD's representatives have used political office to advance LWD's interests; and that "LWD presents the possibility of an environmental catastrophe," and much more. Available from Ben Gordon, Greenpeace, 1017 W. Jackson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607. Greenpeace doesn't charge for its reports, but a donation would be appreciated. Videoactive Productions produced a 60 minute videotape on LWD in 1988 called "**Calvert City: One of Kentucky's Best Kept Secrets.**" It was this video that was the catalyst for the June 1989 PBS-TV Frontline program. The video depicts the environmental and health damage inflicted upon the citizens of Calvert City (population less than 3,000) and surrounding area by a combination of nine chemical plants and LWD's hazardous waste incinerator. The video shows the vast differences between the theories and practices concerning chemical and hazardous waste. This video presented a better in-depth look at the problems in Calvert City and was more informative than the Frontline program. Available for \$25 from **Videoactive Productions**, Video #WOW 14, Box 322, Route 2, Canton, NY 13617. To order by phone call 315-386-8797.

**AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA) RECOMMENDS A CONSTRUCTION BAN ON GARBAGE INCINERATORS IN NON-ATTAINMENT AREAS FOR AIR POLLUTION AND CALLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTENSIVE RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING PLAN TO HANDLE 80% OF THE WASTE STREAM.**

In a policy statement adopted on October 25, 1989, the APHA, the oldest and largest public health association in the world with over 50,000 members, made 10 recommendations concerning waste and resource management. The APHA noted that as a result of the current garbage crisis "many public officials are embracing garbage incineration as a solution without recognizing that incineration is a poor alternative to landfilling as a waste management option and therefore has significant consequences in terms of

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environmental pollution and public health...that inadequate EPA enforcement under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) has allowed ash handling to pose significant threats to air and water quality and to human health, especially that of workers; and...the significant amounts of lead and other heavy metals and dioxins emitted from the stacks of incinerators with either best available control technology (BACT) or the lowest achievable emission rate (LAER)...". Some of the APHA's recommendations are:

1. A federal solid waste policy rooted in resource conservation and pollution prevention.
2. Support of sanctions within the Clean Air Act which would place a construction ban on garbage incinerators within all non-attainment areas where such incinerators would contribute to the non-attainment status.
3. Support of an amendment to RCRA which promotes the use of the least toxic alternative in product composition, and secondarily the alternative which is the most reusable, most recyclable, most durable or most biodegradeable as appropriate.
4. Support of legislation which promotes the use of recycled materials over virgin materials through fees, taxes or price supports and tax credits.
5. Support of federal, state and local procurement guidelines for government contractors which enable product life and ability to be repaired to be considered in procurement decisions.
6. Support of research in problems areas of waste management such as battery recycling, household hazardous waste collection and recycling possibilities.
7. That the EPA assist local communities to develop and implement intensive recycling and composting plans to handle 80% of the waste stream through technical assistance, planning grants and incentives to successful programs.
8. Supports the designation of incinerator ash residues as hazardous unless comprehensive testing proves otherwise.

The APHA's 4-page policy on "Resource and Solid Waste Management" is available from the APHA, 1015 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Telephone: 202-789-5600.

**NOVEMBER 8 ELECTIONS - VOTERS OPT FOR NON-INCINERATOR CANDIDATES:** Here's just a sampling. In Ocean County, NJ, a 95-year old Republican machine was defeated by the incinerator issue. Two new Freeholders, Paul Brush and Mark Troncone, ran against the Ogden Martin proposed incinerator. The incinerator was the sole issue in Ocean County. A major upset was achieved in North Hempsted, Long Island, when anti-incinerator Democrat Dan Zwirn won the election for Town Supervisor. Residents tried hard to get an incinerator referendum on the ballot last spring but were denied by the Town of Hempsted. In Huntington, Long Island, the Town Supervisor race was won by the candidate opposed to Ogden Martin's proposal to build a 750 tpd incinerator. In Syracuse, NY, Vicki Baker, an anti-incinerator candidate won a legislative seat. Syracuse is trying to push through contracts with Ogden Martin before the end of the year and before the new legislature meets in January. Syracuse is a classic example of high political intrigue coupled with strong resident opposition to the proposal. In St. Lawrence County, NY, 8 out of 11 candidates endorsed by anti-incinerator residents were voted into office. St. Lawrence County residents are opposing a 250 tpd Harbert-Triga incinerator. In Spokane, Washington, the newly elected Mayor is

100% against the proposed **Wheelabrator** 800 tpd incinerator, replacing the current Mayor who is 100% for the project. In New York City David Dinkins was elected Mayor, which brought jubilation to Brooklyn's Hassidic community. Mayor-elect Dinkins supports a three year moratorium on the construction of the incinerator. Steve Romalewski of the **New York Public Interest Research Group** is compiling election results on anti-incinerator candidates. Contact Steve at NYPIRG, 10 Oakwood Road, Huntington, NY 11743, for more information. Telephone #: 516-673-5536. Add to the list two significant results from Washington County, NY, where two anti-incinerator candidates were elected to the Board of Supervisors. The proposed Foster Wheeler incinerator was a major issue in Washington County.

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

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