

CALIFORNIA: MERCURY EMISSIONS DELAY OGDEN MARTIN'S 800 TPD INCINERATOR PERMIT FOR STANISLAUS COUNTY.

"The Environmental Protection Agency has approved Stanislaus County's garbage-burning plant, but demanded its owners and operators plan to reduce mercury emissions. The trouble is, nobody's certain where the mercury is coming from. Hearing aid, camera and other batteries contain mercury. So do fluorescent lights. But batteries and lights contain only minute amounts of mercury, said Gordon Dewers, director of the Stanislaus County Environmental Resources Department. The plant's final permit to operate had been delayed since March after higher-than-anticipated levels of mercury were discovered. The EPA considers mercury a hazardous waste...The EPA's delay sparked a major finger-pointing contest between the president of **Ogden Martin**, the company that owns and operates the plant, and Dewers. **Ogden President David Sokol said it isn't his company's fault that residents were throwing away things that contained mercury, and Ogden shouldn't be responsible for the problems.** Dewers said it isn't the county's fault the trash incinerator spewed mercury into the air, and he said **Ogden** should fix the problem before the final operating permit is issued. Dewers said he was concerned about liability...The \$121 million facility near Crows Landing is the first of its kind in the Central San Joaquin Valley and one of three in the state. **Ogden Martin** owns and operates the plant for Modesto and the county. The plant burns 800 tons of garbage a day and also sends thousands of pounds of other pollutants into the air daily. Although mere traces, the mercury levels were 14 times as high as those emitted by the City of Commerce plant, which uses the same kind of technology to burn garbage, Dewers said. **Ogden Martin earlier had said there must be something wrong with the local garbage to make the mercury levels so high...**To comply with the EPA, the county and Modesto will report on the sources of mercury in the local trash and plan to get rid of it before it gets burned..." *Fresno Bee, CA, 11-27-89.*

OHIO: CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSES A FIVE YEAR NON-INCINERATION SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

On October 4, 1989, the Cincinnati city council approved the following resolution: "...WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the people of Cincinnati to encourage solid waste recycling, non-incineration alternatives, the reuse of materials and source reduction programs; and WHEREAS, programs such as recycling and non-incineration programs reduce air and water pollution, conserve energy, and natural resources, extend landfill life, reduce the need for incineration, and avoid costs otherwise incurred for solid waste disposal...Council supports the objectives of **60% solid waste reduction in the City through curbside recycling, composting, source reduction, and other non-incineration alternatives.** Council will give priority to non-incineration programs and defer final decisions in regard to the need for and feasibility of incineration of solid waste in Cincinnati until 1995..." For a copy of the resolution and for more information contact: **Citizens for Sensible Waste Management**, 740 Circle Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45232, Tel: 513-541-4109.

OREGON: OGDEN MARTIN INCINERATOR WINS FIRST ROUND OF APPROVAL TO IMPORT OUT-OF-COUNTY MEDICAL WASTE TO MARION COUNTY.

"...The Marion County Solid Waste Advisory Committee voted to recommend the county accept as much as 5,000 tons of out-of-county medical waste a year. Two pages of conditions were attached to the recommendation, which will now go to the Marion County Board of Commissioners. The committee is advisory in nature...designed to operate on a consensus, the committee fell back to a vote because one member, Shirley Waite of Woodburn, did not agree that the waste should be accepted ... (Waite said) **'We asked the public for their opinion and unanimously they said no'** ...Conditions include that: * The extra money generated from accepting medical waste be used to increase monitoring around waste facilities, and bolster efforts in waste reduction, reuse, recycling, public education, public relations, composting, and future

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siting procedures. * The contract with **Ogden Martin** for out-of-county medical waste allow the county to reduce the rate at which the waste is accepted or quit taking it all together within 30 days of notice. * Out-of-county medical waste should replace only out-of-county municipal waste and should not exceed 5,000 tons per year. * Comparisons of emissions and other environmental data should be made before and after the medical waste starts coming. * An independent quality assurance appraisal or audit evaluating the county's sampling, monitoring, testing and interpretation, and reporting should be conducted. * The county should make information relating to medical waste and solid waste testing readily available to the public..." Woodburn Independent, 11-22-89. The Statesman Journal report of 11-15-89: "...Jim Sears, Marion County's solid waste director, said that the county can't discriminate against out-of-state haulers, and that there could be a confrontation...Out-of-county medical waste hasn't been burned at the plant since 1988, when public opposition prompted county commissioners to stop accepting medical garbage from a Seattle company. Sears predicted that the county would receive about \$300 a ton for out-of-county medical waste, much more than the \$55 a ton charged to burn household waste...Taking the out-of-county medical waste would save residential customers about \$5 a year, Sears estimated. Workers at the incinerator now burn about 360 tons of medical waste from Marion County hospitals, which pay the standard \$55 a ton."

NEW YORK: STATE THREATENS TO CLOSE DOWN MONTENAY OPERATED GLEN COVE, LONG ISLAND, TRASH INCINERATOR. According to Glen Cove's Public Works Director, Robert Mangon, "the \$24-million plant came on line in August, 1983, as a sludge-burning facility and was 92.5 percent funded by the federal and state governments. In August, 1988, **Montenay** and the city were granted a permit to burn solid waste and, as part of the permit conditions, had to replace much of its smokestack...The City of Glen Cove and the operator of its garbage incinerator [**Montenay**] face fines up to \$450,000 and the shutdown of the plant unless excessive smoke, odor and ash emissions and other alleged violations are corrected, state environmental officials said yesterday. A complaint by the state Department of Environmental Conservation charges the city and **Montenay Power Corp.**, which runs the plant, with 44 instances when the plant operated below the minimum state-required temperature of 1,400 degrees Fahrenheit, or when smoke, odor, or ash emissions from the six-year old plant interfered 'with the enjoyment of property of residents in the area'...DEC attorney David Rubinton said the major problem with the plant, as found by state and Nassau County Department of Health inspectors, is incomplete combustion of garbage. To burn garbage properly, the plant needs to shut down and install an alternative fuel source, he said. 'It's our position that they're unable to do it at this time,' Rubinton said. 'They don't have any auxiliary burners. They pretty much light a match and burn the garbage.'...Calls to officials at **Montenay**, which also operates the Long Beach incinerator and will operate the Islip plant when it comes on line, were not returned. Residents of Glen Cove and Sea Cliff complain that

that they have put up with smoke and odors from the plant for years. Nancy Kirk of Sea Cliff said recently that she has called the county to complain about the incinerator for three years. 'We're not supposed to see emissions,' said Kirk, a member of the **Coalition to Save Hempsted Harbor**. 'They recently got a whole new stack. Since they did, it's been functioning horribly...' Newsday, NY, 11-22-89, page 29.

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