

PROVISIONS TO THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT, NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION, WILL ENCOURAGE INCINERATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE. The Municipal Waste Combustion section of the Clean Air Act, S.1630, now being considered by the U.S. Senate, contains provisions that would make it easier to build incinerators and ash landfills. If the Clean Air Act, with these provisions intact, should become law, recycling will take a back seat to incineration.

** The current bill requires only token recycling (requirements than can be waived by state officials); no incinerator should be approved unless a plan for a minimum of 60% recycling is in place.

** The bill fails to regulate incinerator ash as a hazardous waste, even when the ash exhibits the characteristics of a hazardous waste. Incinerator ash should be designated as hazardous unless tests demonstrate that the ash is non-hazardous.

** Provisions on source separation must be strengthened to reduce the toxicity of ash and air emissions.

** Advanced air pollution control systems should be required even if this increases the cost of incineration.

** Strict standards for extremely toxic substances such as mercury and dioxin must be required.

Fifty groups (national, state and local) endorsed a 2-6-90 letter to all 100 U.S. Senators urging the above revisions. Groups wishing to sign on to a follow-up letter should call Bob Collins at **Clean Water Action**, 317 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Washington, DC 20003. Tel: 202-546-6616. **Clean Water Action** is urging that all groups call or write their Senators directly.

"SHAM RECYCLERS: PART 1. HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATION IN CEMENT AND AGGREGATE KILNS," is the title of a recently published **Greenpeace** report. Anyone who somehow thought that burning toxics in cement/aggregate kilns might be a good idea will find this report quite revealing. This is an excellent introduction into the land of unregulated hazardous waste disposal. "The U.S. Congress enacted the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)** to protect public health and the environment from the dangers inherent in the disposal of hazardous waste. In interpreting and enforcing RCRA, the U.S. EPA has ruled that the burning of hazardous waste in cement/aggregate kilns, industrial furnaces, and boilers is recycling, not disposal, and is thus exempt from RCRA's regulations for disposal facilities. Companies claiming to recycle waste by burning it are not required to obtain permits or to meet the operating and emission standards applied to other hazardous waste incinerators. As many as 1,000 kilns, boilers, and furnaces are burning approximately 50 billion pounds per year of hazardous waste under this exemption. The quantity of hazardous waste burned in cement and aggregate kilns is expected to double by 1992." Some people might have thought that with the very high temperatures attained in cement/aggregate kilns, toxic emissions would be limited. But according to the report, large amounts of toxic metals are released into the air and the "frequency and severity of upsets is quite high" during kiln burning. Several references to reports are cited on upset conditions. Also cited are the problems with hazardous waste spills that occur at kiln sites, and the problems posed during the transportation of these exempted hazardous wastes. But most important are the toxic air releases which will erase any confidence some might have placed in the destruction of materials in these kilns and the resultant toxic ash that has to be landfilled. This is obviously a significant environmental danger and the EPA, which has been mandated under RCRA "to protect public health and the environment" has to be cited for criminal negligence for exempting kilns from regulations when they receive hazardous wastes. The report investigates temperature and combustion upsets, pollution control devices, emissions from kilns burning hazardous wastes (such as **dioxins, furans, heavy metals**).

The **Greenpeace** authors, Pat Costner and Joe Thornton, have performed a superb service in offering this report to the public. "**Sham Recyclers: Part 1,**" is available from **Greenpeace USA**, 1436 U Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. Tel: 202-462-1177.

MOBILE HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATOR EXPOSES 12 WORKERS TO PCB SMOKE IN GOOSE BAY, NEWFOUNDLAND.

"The first [sic] portable PCB incinerator to be used in Canada has been shut down indefinitely until the Department of National Defence determines the cause and effects of a malfunctioning exhaust fan that exposed 12 workers to smoke Thursday [2-1-90] night. The backup exhaust fan also failed, causing the containment building at Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay to fill with smoke. Capt. Greg McGuire, the project manager, said the incident has 'shaken my confidence.' The incinerator was fired up about two weeks ago to destroy over 3,500 tonnes of contaminated waste at the base." The Montreal Gazette, 2-3-90, page A-7. According to John Jackson of the Ontario-based **Toxics Waste Research Coalition**, **OHM Corp.** out of Ohio built the Goose Bay incinerator.

MOBILE HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATOR EXPOSES 13 WORKERS TO PCB SMOKE IN SWAN HILLS, NORTHERN ALBERTA, CANADA.

"An accident similar to the one that may have exposed 12 incinerator workers to PCB-laden smoke Thursday in Goose Bay, Nfld., occurred at a plant in Swan Hills in northern Alberta. A mobile incinerator being tested at the **Alberta Special Waste Treatment Center** exposed 13 workers to smoke on Nov. 29 [1989], said Bob Rutberg, project manager at the center. He said the mobile kiln was being tested with PCB-contaminated soil when a problem with its cooling system shut it down." The company's occupational-health physician said the smoke caused the exposed workers 'no adverse health effects.' PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, were once used in transformers and have been linked to cancer." The Montreal Gazette, 2-4-90, page A-8. According to John Jackson, **Versar** is the firm that built the mobile hazardous waste incinerator used at Swan Hills. Swan Hills is a remote, little community in northern Alberta where there already exists a rocking kiln hazardous waste incinerator, hazardous waste landfill, and deepwell injection of waste operations. These have been operating for one year, and are owned by the provincial Alberta Government.

MOBILE HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATOR PROPOSED FOR SMITHVILLE, ONTARIO.

There has been serious PCB contamination in Smithville due to improper storage of PCBs. The PCBs have already seeped through the clay into the groundwater and according to John Jackson of the Ontario-based **Toxics Waste Research Coalition**, the PCBs are estimated to be moving a meter a day into the town's water supply. The town's wells have been closed, replaced by water from Lake Ontario. The proposal for Smithville is twofold: one proposal is to bring in an **ENSCO** mobile hazardous waste incinerator. Hearings are planned to begin on 2-19-90 in Smithville on this proposal. The second proposal is from the Ontario Waste Management Corp., a governmental agency, to build a hazardous waste incinerator, with 2 rotary kilns, and a hazardous waste landfill for Smithville. The Ontario Waste Management Corp. has spent **\$100 million** and ten years developing this proposal, and the construction costs involved amount to **\$300 millions** to construct a 300,000 ton a year incinerator. The hearings on this proposal began on 2-5-90 and are expected to last 2-3 years. The **Toxics Waste Research Coalition** is opposing the construction of the incinerator on the basis that this kind of facility should not be built anywhere. Smithville is 50 miles southwest of Toronto and 30 miles due west of Niagara Falls. For a position paper describing problems of the proposal and alternatives, write to **Toxics Waste Research Coalition**, 139 Waterloo Street, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 3V5, Canada. Telephone: 519-744-7503.

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