

Waste Not

The Weekly Reporter
for rational
resource management

#92

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March 1, 1990

NEW JERSEY: CAMDEN COUNTY'S SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL, IN A 3-WAY-SPLIT VOTE, SAYS NO TO COUNTY'S TWO INCINERATORS. There are 21 counties in NJ and each county is considered a solid waste district by the pro-incinerator Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The highly polluted meadowlands in Bergen County is considered the 22nd solid waste district in the state. The DEP required each county to formulate their own solid waste plans that then had to be approved by the DEP. Virtually all NJ counties had included incineration in their plans. The DEP approved all county plans. The DEP also required each county to have a **Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)** appointed by their governing boards. The officials on NJ's county governing boards are known as Freeholders. Camden County, population 500,000, decided in 1984 to build two incinerators in Pennsauken and the city of Camden. Details on these incinerators are:

CAMDEN COUNTY'S INCINERATORS	PENNSAUKEN	CITY OF CAMDEN
Stage of operation:	Site preparation only	Incinerator is 30% complete
Firm to construct & operate:	OGDEN MARTIN	FOSTER WHEELER
Incinerator owner:	Pennsauken Solid Waste Management Authority	FOSTER WHEELER
Tons per day:	500 tpd mass-burn	1,050 tpd mass burn
Estimated construction costs:	\$83 million	\$108 million
Bonds received to date:	\$68 million	\$108 million
Money spent to date:	\$20 million	\$ 60 million
Estimated incinerator tip fee:	Mid \$70s per ton	Mid \$70s per ton
Current tip fee:	\$54.84 per ton	\$55 to \$65 per ton
Bonds issued by:	Pennsauken Solid Waste Management Authority	Camden County Pollution Control Financing Authority
Ash landfill location:	incinerator site	10-year contract with RIMIRO CORP. landfills in Penn.
Health & environmental impact studies performed by:	James C. Anderson Assoc. C.R.T. (Boston, MA)	FOSTER WHEELER and its subsidiaries
Information received from:	John Jacobs, Exec.Dir. Pennsauken Solid Waste Management Authority	Newton Wattis, Plant Manager Camden County Energy Recovery Assoc. (F-W subsidiary)

In the summer of 1989 the Camden Freeholders commissioned the engineering firm of **O'Brien Krietzberg**, out of Pittsburg, PA, to do a county trash generation study. The results of that study showed that the county had overestimated trash generation in 1984 and that there was not enough trash for the county's two incinerators. Against the backdrop of intense county politics (Republicans generally against incinerators and the Democrats for), coupled with active and sustained citizen opposition and litigation suits, the following events unfurled.

FEBRUARY 14, 1990: The 26-member SWAC voted on the following recommendations: 1. **No incinerators in Camden County (10 SWAC votes);** 2. *** Two incinerators in Camden County (9 SWAC votes);** 3. **One incinerator in Camden County (6 SWAC votes).** There was one abstention. Two of the SWAC members who voted for the ***two incinerator option** have direct interests in the Pennsauken incinerator. The Camden County Ethics Commission is soon to rule on whether this conflict of interest allows them to vote. The SWAC members are: **John Jacobs**, Exec. Dir. of the authority overseeing the construction of the Pennsauken incinerator, and SWAC Chairman **John J. Tarditi, Jr.**, who works for the insurance company that does business with the **Pennsauken Solid Waste Management Authority.**

FEBRUARY 22, 1990: The County Freeholders hold a public meeting to discuss and vote on SWAC's recommendations. To the public's surprise the Freeholders sidestep SWAC and introduce a new option which they proceed to vote for: 1. **Tip fees must not exceed \$73 per ton (exclusive of taxes) on opening day with reasonable increases in the future;**

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and that incinerator operators guarantee that the incinerator ash and air emissions will be non-hazardous. A County resident contacted the NJ DEP to ascertain whether DEP would approve this option --all solid waste plans have to be approved by the DEP. The response was that DEP would not approve the Freeholder's options. The fate of Camden's incinerators is unknown. For more information contact: Mark Lohbauer, 8235 Balfour Road, Pennsauken, NJ 08810. Tel: 609-663-4595.

MASSACHUSETTS: WHEELABRATOR-RESCO'S 1,200 TPD INCINERATOR IN SAUGUS UNDERGOING BUDGET-BUSTER RETROFIT. WORKER DIES AT SAUGUS INCINERATOR. On February 10, 1990, a 48-year old worker fell into the incinerator's receiving pit and died of head injuries. The incident apparently took place when the worker, a long-time employee at the incinerator, was tightening a bolt on a crane, slipped, and fell into the receiving pit. Workers later discovered him. OSHA is investigating. **RETROFIT:** Under the Mass. Solid Waste Act of 1987 the Saugus incinerator was mandated to be retrofitted, which is privately owned by Wheelabrator's Refuse Energy Systems Co. (RESCO). No state money will be used for the retrofit, which includes: scrubbers, removal of the ESPs to be replaced by baghouses, with a recommendation for a video monitor to be placed in the baghouse. Also included is the replacement of the 160 foot stack by a new 287 foot stack. The incinerator retrofit is estimated at \$70 million with a December 1990 deadline.

ASHFILL REMEDIATION: The incinerator ash has been dumped in the salt marshes over the last 14 years. The proposal now is to build a 50 foot deep slurry wall around the perimeter of the 200 acre ashfill site to collect and channel the leachate. This giant moat, to cost an estimated \$68 million, will channel the leachate to a pre-treatment plant. The total cost for ashfill remediation and retrofit comes to \$138 million. The State's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) required **NO** environmental impact review for this massive project. As part of a consent agreement **no ash is to be dumped at this site after 1996.** After all these years of the State allowing ash dumping, the State has now informed the 18 communities sending trash to the incinerator that they will have to pay for the **proper safeguarding of the ashfill site after 1996.** About 4 years ago a State official from the Dept. of Environmental Quality Engineering (this department changed its name in 1989 to the DEP) stated that the Saugus incinerator ash was not being "disposed of" near the salt marshes, **it was only being "stored there."** **TIP FEE CHANGE:** The 18 communities using the incinerator will have a dramatic hike in tip fees, from \$22 per ton to \$79.50 per ton by July 1990. The State is undergoing major financial problems, and the communities sending trash to this incinerator are finding this a budget-buster. The town of Saugus is claiming that RESCO owes an additional \$1.4 million in host community fees from 1985. RESCO denies it. Once again the town of Saugus is to enter a financial battle with RESCO that will have to be fought out in the courts. Contact person: Peter Manoogian, 50 Ballaid St., Saugus, MA, 01906. Tel: 617-233-4715. (See also Waste Not #s 12 & 47).

HAZARDOUS WASTE INCINERATORS: CANADA TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS FEDERAL PROGRAM TO DESTROY PCBS WITH PORTABLE INCINERATORS. Canada "has temporarily suspended a federal program to destroy polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) with portable incinerators, after accidents with the first two projects..." Calgary Herald, 2-20-90. **OHM Corp.** operated the Goose Bay incinerator in Newfoundland when a malfunctioning exhaust fan exposed 12 workers to smoke on 2-1-90. The backup exhaust fan also failed. **Versar** operated the incinerator in Swan Hills, northern Alberta, when 13 workers were exposed to PCB-laden smoke on 11-29-89.

JUNK MAIL CONTROL: Write to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Assoc., 11 W. 42nd St., PO Box 3861, NY, NY 10163-3861. "They'll stop your name from being sold to most large mailing list companies. This will reduce your junk mail up to 75%." 50 Simple Things you can do to save the Earth, \$4.95 from Earthworks Press, Box 25, 1400 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709, or call 415-841-5866. Bulk rates available.

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