

Mr. Zeke Zillion
President
Community Quality, Inc.
Box 27181
Washington, D.C. 20038

Dear Mr. Zillion:

Thank you for your August 3, 1999 letter to Mr. Robert Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator for Office of Air and Radiation, regarding EPA's regulation of hazardous waste burning cement kilns. You urge the Agency to better consider the benefits of allowing cement kilns to burn hazardous waste instead of incinerators, particularly because burning hazardous waste in cement kilns could save millions of tons of carbon dioxide per year. You also state that carbon emissions would be reduced if the cement industry were to increase its market share of burning hazardous waste fuel -- the opposite effect of current EPA regulation in your view.

We agree that the burning of hazardous waste as fuel in cement kilns (and other industrial furnaces and boilers) can be a safe and effective way to destroy toxic organics in the waste while reducing the consumption of fossil fuels. Of course, because burning hazardous waste in cement kilns involves the release of toxic pollutants, this method of treating hazardous waste should ideally be used only after exhausting opportunities to minimize the quantity of waste generated. Also, the release of toxic pollutants needs to be controlled in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

As you may know, on July 30, 1999, the Administrator signed an updated set of regulations to control the toxic emissions being emitted from hazardous waste combustors, a general category that includes cement kilns, incinerators, and lightweight aggregate kilns that burn hazardous waste. These regulations implement the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) provisions of Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. You can access a pre-publication copy of the final rule and the support documents on our web page: <http://www.epa.gov/hwcmact>. We anticipate that the final rule will be published in the Federal Register shortly.

Based on extensive Agency study and a myriad of comments from a wide range

RO 14368

of interested stakeholders, including the cement kiln industry, we believe that the MACT rule establishes requirements that are readily achievable, environmentally protective, and not overly burdensome for hazardous waste combustors. Further, our technical and economic analyses suggest that approximately 1 percent of the hazardous waste currently burned at cement kilns (or about 11,500 tons per year) could potentially be shifted to other cement kilns or to commercial incinerators. We also note that about 13,600 tons per year might be shifted from onsite incinerators to cement kilns or commercial incinerators. More than adequate burning capacity exists within either the cement kiln or commercial incinerator universe to absorb these wastes. Overall, therefore, we estimate no significant net change in energy (coal) use and corresponding emissions of pollutants such as carbon dioxide associated with these hazardous waste reallocations if they, in fact, occur. Our analysis is discussed in detail in *Assessment of the Potential Costs, Benefits, and Other Impacts of the Hazardous Waste Combustion MACT Standards: Final Rule* and the *Addendum to the Assessment*. These documents can be downloaded from our web page.

If you have additional questions regarding the MACT rulemaking, please feel free to contact David Hockey, Project Director for combustion rulemakings, at 703-308-8846.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director
Office of Solid Waste