

PPC 9573.1986(01)

MUNICIPAL WASTE INCINERATOR ASH MANAGEMENT

JUN 27 1986

Mr. Steve Stander
c/o Department of Plant
and Soil Sciences
Stockbridge Hall, Room 10
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

Dear Mr. Stander:

This is in response to your June 9, 1986, request for information regarding municipal waste incinerator ash management, resource recovery, and regulatory statutes applicable to such incineration.

Disposal of solid residues from municipal waste combustion (MWC) processes is generally accomplished by landfilling. Fly ash as well as other residues from MWC processes sometimes exhibit the characteristics of hazardous waste and, therefore, are regulated under the applicable disposal standards in 40 CFR Parts 260 through 265. Other than those occasions when the MWC residues meet the definition of hazardous waste, the Federal regulations that apply are the same as those for any non-hazardous waste. These regulations are the "Criteria for Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices" (40 CFR Part 257) which were promulgated on September 13, 1979, under authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). A copy of these Criteria is enclosed for your information.

On the State level, regulatory strategies regarding disposal of MWC residues are greatly varied. Currently, your home State of Massachusetts has no specific restrictions addressing disposal of MWC residues. However, it is my understanding that future Massachusetts regulations may require that disposal of the residues be restricted to landfills which are lined and have leachate collection systems. For additional information, you may wish to contact:

Mr. William F. Cass, Director
Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste

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Department of Environmental Quality
Engineering
One Writer Street, 5th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 292-5589

In response to the various Congressional mandates written into the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently initiated several projects in an effort to address subject areas pertinent to your inquiry. The Agency is currently developing a technical information document for use by State and local governments in evaluating municipal waste combustion projects. Included in this document will be the results of a study to determine the characteristics of ash from MWC processes. We anticipate that this document will be available in February 1987. EPA is also evaluating the potential health and environmental impacts from the disposal of these residues. The results of this assessment should be available within the year.

EPA's Municipal and Environmental Research Laboratory in Cincinnati, Ohio, is currently investigating ash sampling and analytical techniques. Should you require technical information at this level, you may contact:

U.S. EPA
Center for Environmental Research
Information/ORD
26 West St. Clair Street
Cincinnati, OH 45268

I am also enclosing a list of references which address a broad range of topics which should be pertinent to your study.

I hope this information is useful to you. If you have further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gerri Dorian
Special Wastes Branch

Enclosures
cc: Bob Janney, EPA (w/o enclosures)

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