

NO SLUDGE PLANT FOR BANNING !

STOP THE BANNING CITY COUNCIL NOW !

THE PROPOSED “LIBERTY ENERGY XXIII” PROJECT IS AN OUTRAGE AND A NIGHTMARE FOR OUR CITY !

Here’s why :

- They are proposing a heavy industrial plant on 20 acres by the airport that burns immense amounts of sewage. This sewage, innocently called “Biosolids” - containing unknown quantities of toxins (mercury and dioxin) and human feces – is being burned and turned into electricity
- With huge cooling towers similar to a nuclear power plant it will be visible for miles and creates an eyesore. The plant will use drinking water as one of their water sources
- Within the City limits of Banning and within less than ¾ of a mile from residences, this plant uses AMMONIA , a highly toxic chemical that damages lungs and even causes death. Do you really think they would ever tell us when it leaks out ?
- The plant creates emissions from the burning process. Whatever toxins are being dumped into the sewers of Southern California WILL END UP IN BANNING and the exhaust from burning them will be released into the air here ! There is no way of knowing what toxins, diseases or poisons are contained in the sewage mass. ANYTHING can be in there !
- Just imagine 132 semi trucks daily (!) delivering sewage mass from all over – nonstop 24/7. Coming down the freeway exiting Hargrave. How is this going to enhance our quality of life ?
- Whatever revenue this industrial plant would generate for the City will be offset by a destruction of property values for homeowners due to the presence of such a monstrosity. Approval of this project practically amounts to confiscation of your property
- **Bottom line** : This is by no means a “clean” project , this is HEAVY INDUSTRIAL USE posing great HEALTH RISKS ! It does NOT belong in any City ! And it certainly does not belong close to residences

Don’t let them shove this nightmare down our throats ! We don’t need to tell them “WHY”. We just need to TELL THEM “NO” !

Call the City Council Members - (951) 922-3146

Why is it important for Liberty Energy to avoid calling the project an “incinerator” but instead lie and label it a “power plant” ?

In California an “incinerator” would involve an EXTENSIVE approval process involving many agencies, State and Federal doing individual evaluations. This is because incinerators are inherently dangerous because of toxic emissions (mercury , dioxin), maintenance requirements, etc. .Such an approval process for an incinerator would take 8 – 10 years and the outcome would be very uncertain. Furthermore, public perception of an incinerator would negatively impact the likelihood of an approval.

The approval as a “power plant” makes things much easier. There are hundreds of small power plants in operation. To be approved, a power plant only requires that guidelines are met ; no individual assessment by State or Federal agencies is required. This is because power plants are not expected to emit dangerous toxins like dioxin and mercury.

The following press articles show that the Press has consistently identified the Canadian Liberty plant as an “Incinerator” and Liberty Energy as an “Incinerator Company”. Furthermore, the St. Paul, Minnesota operation labels itself an “incinerator”.

Liberty Energy has never asked for these press articles to be corrected. The City of Hamilton, Canada made Liberty Energy resubmit their application as an “incinerator” after they tried to pass it off as a “power plant”.

Therefore, Liberty Energy has been consistently **lying** to Banning about the true nature of the plant, repeating over and over that it is NOT an incinerator. They know better.

By calling it a “power plant” driven by a “bubbling furnace” they try to circumvent the proper approval process for an incinerator.

What is an Incinerator?

Ads by Google

Medical Incinerator

Waste Pollution

Paint Disposal

Dumping Waste

Ads by Google

Thermal Oxidizer Flare

VOC BTEX Hydrocarbon Incineration natural draft no refractory
99.9%
tciusainc.com

Medical Waste Incinerator

Manufacturer of small, multipurpose batchload medical waste
incinerator
www.batchloadincinerators.com

Medical Incinerators

Medical waste incinerators Highly durable and easy to install
www.inciner8.com

Medical Waste

One-Stop Compliance Portal 24/7 Manage Compliance Online - Flat
fee
www.saferandsmarter.com

The term *incinerate* means to burn something until nothing is left but ashes. An incinerator is a unit or facility used to burn trash and other types of waste until it is reduced to ash. An incinerator is constructed of heavy, well-insulated materials, so that it does not give off extreme amounts of external heat. The high levels of heat are kept inside the furnace or unit so that the waste is burned quickly and efficiently. If the heat were allowed to escape, the waste would not burn as completely or as rapidly.

One function of an incinerator is to dispose of trash or waste effectively, eliminating the high cost of having waste hauled away and deposited elsewhere, such as piling

even more rubbish atop existing landfills. Incinerators also serve to keep dangerous materials from finding their way to landfills where they can harm people, including those that work in such facilities. Another benefit is the fact that an incinerator can produce power in the process of waste burning, though not all incinerators harness that power.

Since not only power but also smog and air pollution are byproducts of incineration, some people feel that an incinerator is a poor alternative to other waste disposal methods. They believe it is simply a trade off, exchanging land waste for smog. However, an incinerator can dispose of an incredible amount of solid waste when utilized properly, which proves to many people that it is the most efficient waste disposal process.

Aside from reducing the sheer quantity of solid waste by roughly 90%, an incinerator can also be used to manage certain materials that cannot be disposed of properly by simply dumping them in another location due to issues of public health and safety. The extreme temperatures produced by an incinerator can obliterate certain biohazards, as well as other toxic materials which are found in medical and hazardous waste. Other dangerous and harmful materials can also be broken down in an incinerator, such as confiscated drugs, bio-weapons, and contaminants. The use of an incinerator, as well as all other processes by which waste is disposed of, is strictly regulated to protect our health and the environment.

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Hamilton, Ontario

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Standing Committee \(6\)](#)[Economic Development and
Planning Standing
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Committee \(3\)](#)[Public Works Standing
Committee \(6\)](#)[Other Committees \(2\) *NEW*](#)**Links:**[CATCH Website 2004-2006](#)[Documents](#)

NEW = within 14 days



When it comes to GRIDS,
the COW may choose
between the LEAR and
ERASE.

Confused?

[The CATCH acronym
glossary explains all.](#)

[List All Articles](#)**CATCH Articles:****Good news, bad news for incinerator company**

Aug 09, 2007

Yesterday's council decision to support a sludge incinerator may be the first good news for the private company that is trying to convince regulators and the public, both here and in California, to support its gasification technology for burning sewage sludge.

Several councillors including Russ Powers, Dave Mitchell, Bob Bratina, Lloyd Ferguson and Mayor Eisenberger specifically cited Liberty's proposal as an opportunity for the city to partner with the private company.

An Ontario government decision last month forced Liberty Energy to re-start the environmental assessment of the company's proposed Strathearne Avenue incinerator, leading the company to issue a formal "notice of commencement" for the new environmental process last week, and bitterly note the Ontario government's requirement that "the entire environmental screening process must be performed again".

In 2005, the provincial environment ministry had allowed the company to define its incinerator as an electricity project because Liberty expects up to 10 megawatts will be produced for sale to the Ontario grid. This classification was hotly disputed by opponents who argued that the real purpose of the project is to collect lucrative fees from municipalities trying to dispose of their sewage sludge.

Numerous demands were filed in early 2006 demanding a more stringent environmental review process apparently convincing the ministry that the incinerator should be examined under waste management rules. Opponents included the city.

A key part of Liberty's sales pitch in Hamilton has been its experience in California, a state noted for its stringent environmental rules. Liberty noted in its first newspaper advertisement in January 2005 that a sister company was "developing a 15 megawatt renewable energy biosolids and biomass fired facility in California".

And a report prepared by its consultant said the company had been incinerating sludge there since 1994, although that was later clarified by Liberty who explained that some sludge collected by their parent company had been burned in a cement kiln.

That 15 megawatt facility, designated as Liberty X and supposed to be running four years ago, appears to have been abandoned in March of last year in the face of public opposition and almost certain rejection by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors. A new proposal located in a more remote part of Imperial County, and called Liberty XX was launched soon afterwards.

That Niland, California incinerator plan has generated an organized residents group with a "sludgagate" website and a petition large enough to put the issue on the ballot this coming November. That has led the company's CEO, Wilson Nolan, to warn that a rejection of its plans will mean moving the proposal across the border into Mexico.

Nolan told Niland area media that the Mexican plant would be called Liberty XV and that it would mean as many as 100 trucks carrying sludge would pass through

Imperial County daily, leaving Niland with most of the feared negative impacts but none of the promised economic benefits.

"It's not meant to intimidate or discourage the process with Liberty XX", Nolan told the media. "It's just the reality of business."

The Niland proposal is larger than the Hamilton one – promising to produce up to fifteen megawatts of electricity instead of ten, but the job pledges are much larger.

"Liberty XX will provide up to 132 full time jobs during operation", states the company's [October 2006 presentation](#) to Niland residents and politicians. When the Hamilton proposal, now designated as Liberty VII, was unveiled in June 2005 by a [city staff report](#), it promised only 8 full-time jobs.

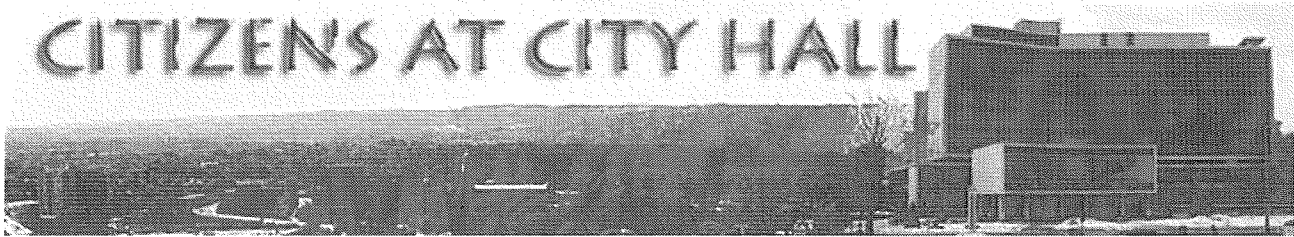
The Niland plans also include the burning of animal manure, along with the human waste stream and biomass (wood waste) promised in Hamilton.

Despite the numerical range of designations, Liberty doesn't appear to have been able to establish any sludge incinerators in California, Ontario or anywhere else at this point, although the company has a Liberty V facility in Los Hills, California that composts sewage sludge.

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[List All Articles](#)**CATCH Articles:****City sludge incinerator proposed***Aug 06, 2007*

City staff are proposing to build a \$60 million incinerator to deal with sewage sludge that is currently being used for fertilizer. The move comes 18 months after city officials objected to a private sludge incinerator planned by Liberty Energy of California.

The [biosolids master plan](#) goes before councillors on Wednesday morning with a recommendation that the option of "thermal reduction" be endorsed as the "preferred biosolids management strategy for the next 30 years and beyond."

The compressed summer schedule of council means the plan could be given final approval at the city council meeting later in the day.

The city defines biosolids as "the nutrient-rich solid organic matter recovered from the treatment of domestic wastewater in a wastewater treatment facility are a beneficial resource, containing essential plant nutrients and organic matter and are recycled as a fertilizer."

A sludge incinerator operated at the Woodward Avenue sewage treatment plant until 1996 when it was shut down because it could not meet environmental standards. In the last decade the city's 53,000 tonnes a year of sludge have been spread on agricultural land.

Staff say new provincial rules are limiting available land for this purpose, and point to concerns about odours and the presence of contaminants in the sludge including heavy metals and pharmaceutical residues. They have rejected an alternative option of further processing the sludge to a Class A compost, arguing that it would be more expensive and that burning it instead will not significantly increase air pollution.

"Emission levels ... from thermal reduction, at times a prime societal concern, are demonstrated to be an infinitesimal constituent of overall City-wide emissions," says the report, "and incinerator GHG emissions are estimated as being an order of magnitude and 85 percent less than those associated with Class A haulage and land application."

The report focuses especially on the transportation impacts of land application. Three to four trucks a day currently haul partly-dried sludge to farm fields. Staff expect that to double by 2035 and believe the distances will also increase.

"Based on planning year 2035 sludge quantities, GHG emissions from biosolids haulage would range from 192,630 Tonnes CO2 per year for a 35 km haulage radius to 373,030 Tonnes CO2 per year for a 65 km radius," calculates the report.

Staff contend that GHG impacts would be cut by three-quarters by operating an incinerator at Woodward and hauling the ash to the city's landfill. They concede, however, that other air pollutants from the incineration process would be higher – up to four times as much for oxides of nitrogen, a major source of [health effects](#) in Hamilton – but argue that the increases are "comparatively insignificant when placed in context ... of current overall city of Hamilton emission levels."

The report says the public has been consulted during the development of the master

plan and suggests that there is support for the incineration option.

"The Project Team's recommendations were well received at the second round of Public Information Centres, and the constraining issues associated with the continuation of the present land application program or any 'Class A' production program (decreasingly available land base, residual odour and pathogen concerns) were acknowledged by the public."

However the city's website section on biosolids confidently declares that "decades of Canadian and international research have demonstrated that biosolids can be safely used on agricultural land for improved crop production" and quotes from the Ministry of the Environment that there have been "no documented adverse impacts on agricultural production, or human and animal health" in more than 25 years.

Hamilton's sewage sludge contains higher levels of metals and other contaminants because of industrial use of the sewer system. The city website says that "the concentrations of regulated metals in the Woodward Treatment Plant biosolids are well below Ontario's guidelines", but the biosolids report cites "continuing concerns" with metals as a reason to move to incineration.

A similar sludge incinerator proposed by a private California company has encountered strong public opposition, as well as formal objections from the city demanding a more stringent environmental review. Liberty Energy's attempts to get approval for a Strathearne Avenue facility hit their latest snag last month when the provincial government required them to start over with the environmental screening of the project.

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THE ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA PLANT

PROOF IT'S AN INCINERATOR

The Banning City Council is planning to visit the St Paul, Minnesota plant

Michael Bracken of Liberty Energy has repeatedly represented that the “St. Paul, Minnesota” plant is an example of a “power plant” just like they are proposing for Banning.

He has further represented over and over again that the proposed plant is NOT an incinerator. This is a blatant lie

Somehow Mr. Bracken has also given the impression that Liberty Energy operates, owns, controls or is affiliated with this plant in St. Paul. Nothing could be further from the truth.





HERE ARE THE FACTS :

1. The plant in Minnesota is NOT owned or operated by Liberty Energy but by a municipality called “Metropolitan Council Environmental Services”
2. The plant is piped into the sewer system therefore there is no truck traffic delivering sewage - unlike what is proposed for Banning
3. The plant is openly labeled by the municipality as an “INCINERATOR” (see attached email from the “Metropolitan Council Environmental Services” and attached news letter) .

IT'S AN INCINERATOR when St. Paul says so themselves !

Liberty Energy has therewith made a FRAUDULANT APPLICATION to the City's Planning Department by applying as a “power plant”

GIVEN THIS EVIDENCE THE CITY MUST REJECT THEIR APPLICATION FOR A “POWER PLANT” AND MAKE THEM RESUBMIT AS AN INCINERATOR SO THE PROPER APPROVAL PROCESS IS FOLLOWED.

 **To:** _____
 **Cc:** _____
 **Bcc:** _____
Subject: Fw: [SPAM]RE: Biofuels waste/electricity plant?
Attach:  Metro SMB for KGET TV 3-27-06.doc [27.5KB]

-----Original Message-----

From: Odonnell, Tim
Date: 8/11/2008 10:18:03 AM
To: _____
Cc: datacenter
Subject: [SPAM]RE: Biofuels waste/electricity plant?

Dear Mr. and Ms. _____

Thanks for your note about the biosolids incineration facility that we operate at our wastewater treatment plant in St. Paul, Minnesota. I'm checking with our staff to see what information they have available and whether there is a chance of touring the facility. In the meantime, here are links to two fact sheets and a newsletter article on our website:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/about/facts/WastewaterServicesFacts.pdf>

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/about/facts/MetroPlantSolidsMgmt.pdf>

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/directions/water/water2006/incineratorJan06.htm>

Also, the attached Word file is information about our facility that we provided to a Bakersfield television station about two years ago

Regards,

Tim

Tim O'Donnell

Senior Information Coordinator

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

tim.odonnell@metc.state.mn.us

Office: 651-602-1269

Fax: 651-602-1477

Cell: 952-451-4689

8/29/2008

Metropolitan Council

> News+Events > Features > Water

Metro Plant incinerators cut emissions, utility costs

New facility is projected to save the Council \$4 million on energy annually

New wastewater solids incinerators at the Metropolitan Council's Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Paul have dramatically reduced both air emissions and energy costs at the plant.

The three "fluidized bed" incinerators began full operation in January 2005, and in the first year reduced air emissions of many pollutants, including particulates and mercury, by more than 95 percent (see chart). The discharge of pollutants is expected to be the lowest of any operating sludge incinerator facility in the U.S.

Energy savings are dramatic

The equipment uses about 80 percent less natural gas, cutting plant costs by \$3.4 million annually. It recovers more heat, helping to heat the plant and generate electricity, saving up to \$600,000 annually in avoided electricity costs. The Council also received a one-time rebate of \$958,000 from Xcel Energy for installing the energy-saving equipment.

"The new incinerators, along with new processes and equipment for dewatering the solids removed from the wastewater, are reducing fuel cost, air emissions and odors," said Bill Moore, general manager of the Council's environmental services division. "We couldn't be more pleased with the results in the first year."

For six decades, the Metro Plant had been using multiple hearth incineration technology developed more than a century ago. The aging system was creating increasing operations and maintenance costs.

Process generates electricity for plant

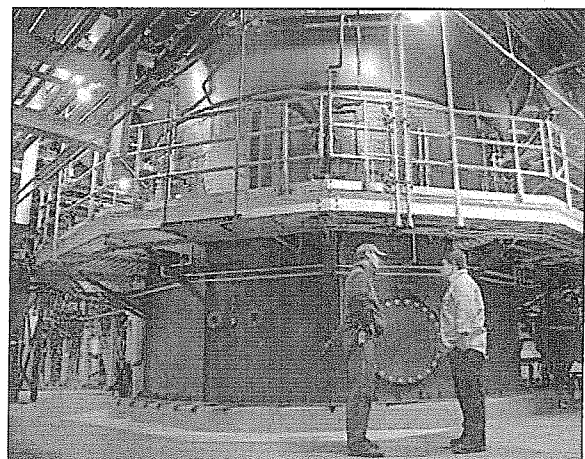
The new \$159 million solids processing facility uses state-of-the-art incineration and air pollution control equipment. It also reduces dependence on nonrenewable energy by utilizing the fuel value of the wastewater solids, which enable the incinerators to operate without external fuel. Hot exhaust gases are used to generate steam for plant heating and cooling, and up to five megawatts of electricity is produced in the steam-driven turbine generator.

Planning, design and construction of the new facility took place over the course of a decade. Construction began in October 2001 and in January 2005 the new facility began processing all wastewater solids produced at the plant, enabling shutdown of the old system. The Metro Plant currently processes 210 tons of dry solids daily. The new facility has capacity to process 315 tons daily.

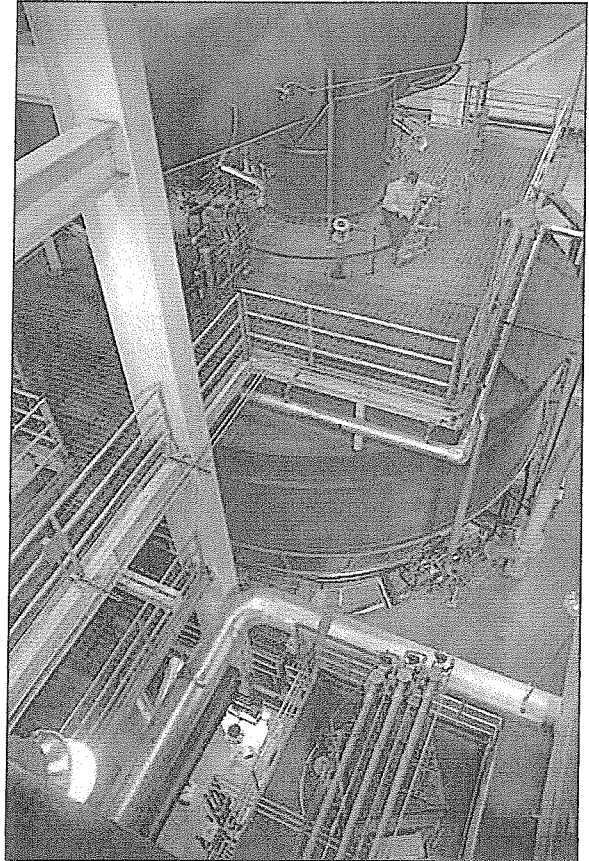
The Metro Plant treats an average of 190 million gallons of wastewater each day. It is by far the largest of the Council's eight regional wastewater treatment plants, serving a population of about 1.7 million people and 800 industries.

Metro Plant Air Quality Improvements

Pollutant	% reduction from 2004
Particulates	97.8
Mercury	95.6
Nitrous oxides	89.8
Sulfur dioxide	92.9
Carbon monoxide	99.7
Lead	95.6
Hydrochloric acid	36.3



David Simons (left), assistant business unit manager at the Metro Plant, confers with intern Tony Anderson at the base of one of the three massive fluidized bed incinerators.



A bird's-eye view of the outlet duct on top of one of the new incinerators. The new solids processing building is, from floor to ceiling, 80 feet in height.

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WHAT HAPPENED WITH LIBERTY ENERGY IN IMPERIAL COUNTY (North San Diego) ?

Over the past years Liberty Energy has tried THREE times to gain approval of their so-called “power plant” in Imperial County. Imperial County is one of the least populated counties in California.

Each time there was a major resistance by residents and Liberty Energy failed to succeed.

The last time they tried to put the facility in Niland , a small, poor community with mostly Hispanic residents. They apparently thought there would be little resistance by the residents there.

They were wrong. The residents on Niland, Imperial County organized to put a measure on the ballot that **prohibited the importation of sewage sludge into Imperial County** (Measure X, see attached)

The measure passed in February of 2008 and that was the end for Liberty Energy.

It is suggested that a similar ordinance be passed in Banning to end the discussion about the “safety” of the “power plant” once and for all.

VOTER'S PAMPHLET - PANFLETO DEL ELECTOR
MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS - MEDIDAS ANALISIS Y ARGUMENTOS

Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.
Los argumentos en favor o en contra de las leyes propuestas son los opiniones de los autores.

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE X

HEALTH AND SAFETY FIRST ORDINANCE OF 2007

Section 1.

TITLE.

The ordinance shall be known as the "Health and Safety First Ordinance of 2007." It shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage by the People of Imperial County, and shall be published and processed in the manner required by the law of the State of California and Imperial County.

Section 2.

INITIATIVE ORDINANCE:

It shall be unlawful to import sewage sludge with the intent to dispose of it in Imperial County. No Imperial County agency or government body shall authorize or allow imported sewage sludge to be disposed of in Imperial County. If any part of this ordinance is deemed unconstitutional, the remaining parts of the ordinance are still enforceable.

REASONS:

Imperial County should not become the dumping ground for human waste from urban counties. Large municipalities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco are transporting sewage sludge from their jurisdiction to rural communities for disposal.

Sewage sludge contains heavy metals, pathogens, chemical pollutants, and synthetic organic compounds which pose a risk, to public health, especially when heated. Heavy metals have been associated with birth defects, cancer, behavioral disorders, and developmental disabilities. Heavy metals contained in sewage sludge include and are not limited to mercury, chromium, cadmium, lead and arsenic. Pathogens abundant in sewage sludge contain airborne bacterial strains that may be inhaled or ingested via food supply. Synthetic organic compounds include hormones, prescription medications and illicit drugs that have the potential to contaminate potable water.

Tractor trailers carrying human and animal waste into the county will emit diesel soot that contains toxins such as benzene, nitrogen, and acid gases. Contained in sewage sludge are over 100,000 contaminants, which the EPA does not regulate or monitor. According to EPA standards, Imperial County is in serious non-attainment status for PM10. PM10 are small particles that become lodged in the lungs to trigger asthma and other respiratory ailments. As a result, Imperial County has one of the highest hospitalization rates for children who suffer from asthma. Any additional decline of air quality in the valley will further increase respiratory ailments for all residents of Imperial County.

Persistent noxious and foul odors will be emitted from processing and storing sludge. Sewage sludge attracts vectors such as flies, birds, rodents, and other animals because they are attracted to it as a food source. Imperial County serves as a hub on the Pacific Flyway, a migratory path for over 400 species of birds. Thousands of birds inhabit the area during winter months. These vectors will have access to the sludge with the likelihood of transporting fecal coliform, viruses, and parasites from sewage sludge to human beings. Resulting illnesses include dysentery, food poisoning, and diarrheal diseases.

Additional significant negative consequences of importing treated sewage into the county include the following: 1) storage of materials approaching 90% total solids can lead to spontaneous combustion with subsequent fires and risk of explosion; 2) tax payers will bear the brunt of paying for the maintenance of roads and highways; and 3) Imperial County is a major producer of the nation's food supply and any negative association that compromises quality or safety of the crops will have a detrimental effect upon the local economy.

TEXTO COMPLETO DE LA MEDIDA X

LA PRIMERA ORDENANZA DE SALUBRIDAD Y SEGURIDAD DE 2007

Sección 1

TITULO.

La ordenanza será conocida como la "Primera Ordenanza de Salubridad y Seguridad de 2007". Entrará en efecto y estará en pleno vigor inmediatamente después de su pasaje por el Pueblo del Condado Imperial, y será publicada y procesada en la manera exigida por la ley del Estado de California y Condado Imperial.

Sección 2.

ORDENANZA DE INICIATIVA:

Será contra la ley importar fango de aguas negras con la intención de eliminarlo en el Condado Imperial. Ninguna agencia del Condado Imperial o cuerpo gubernamental autorizará o permitirá que se elimine el fango de aguas negras importado en el Condado Imperial. Si alguna parte de esta ordenanza es considerada inconstitucional, las partes permanentes de la ordenanza continuarán cumpliéndose.

MOTIVOS:

El Condado Imperial no debe de llegar a ser el lugar donde se tira el desperdicio humano de los condados urbanos. Municipalidades grandes tales como Los Angeles y San Francisco están transportando fango de aguas negras de su jurisdicción a comunidades rural para su eliminación.

El fango de aguas negras contiene metales pesados, patógenos, contaminantes químicos, y compuestos sintéticos orgánicos que presentan un riesgo a la salud pública, especialmente cuando se calientan. Los metales pesados han sido asociados con defectos de nacimiento, cáncer, desórdenes en comportamiento, e incapacidades de desarrollo. Los metales pesados contenidos en el fango de aguas negras incluyen y no están limitados a mercurio, cromo, cadmio, plomo y arsénico. Los patógenos abundantes en el fango de aguas negras contienen ciertas bacterias transportadas por aire que pueden ser inhaladas o ingeridas con la comida. Compuestos orgánicos sintéticos incluyen hormonas, recetas médicas y drogas ilícitas que tienen el potencial de contaminar el agua potable.

Los camiones de remolque que acarrear desperdicio humano y animal al condado van a emitir hollín de diesel que contiene toxinas tales como benzina, nitrógeno y gases ácidos. Contenidos en el fango de aguas negras hay más de 100,000 contaminantes, los cuales la EPA no regula o monitorea. De acuerdo a estándares de la EPA, el Condado Imperial está en situación seria en no pasar el PM10. El PM10 son pequeñas partículas que se quedan alojadas en los pulmones para causar asma y otras enfermedades respiratorias. Como resultado, el Condado Imperial tiene uno de los más altos índices de hospitalización para niños que sufren de asma. Cualquier disminución adicional de calidad del aire en el valle va a aumentar las enfermedades respiratorias de todos lo residentes del Condado Imperial.

Malos olores persistentes y nocivos van a ser emitidos al procesar y almacenar el fango de aguas negras. El fango de aguas negras atrae vectores tales como moscas, pájaros, animales que roen, y otros animales porque se sienten atraídos como a una fuente de comida. El Condado Imperial sirve como un centro en la Vía de Vuelo del Pacífico, un camino migratorio para más de 400 especies de pájaros. Miles de pájaros habitan la región durante los meses de invierno. Estos vectores tendrán acceso al fango con la posibilidad de transportar coliformas fecales, virus, y parásitos del fango de aguas negras a los seres humanos. Las enfermedades resultantes incluyen disentería, envenenamiento de comida, y enfermedades de diarrea.



VOTER'S PAMPHLET - PANFLETO DEL ELECTOR
MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS - MEDIDAS ANALISIS Y ARGUMENTOS

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Los argumentos en favor o en contra de las leyes propuestas son los opiniones de los autores.

The intent of this ordinance is to protect public health, promote well being and preserve the economy of Imperial County.

AUTHORITY:

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the initiative power of the People of Imperial County and the People of Imperial County and the police power of Imperial County as set forth in Article XI, Section 7, of the California Constitution.

DEFINITIONS:

DISPOSAL-

Disposal includes storage, incineration, chemically converted, processing, land application, or dumping on private or public ground and or facilities within Imperial County.

SEWAGE SLUDGE-

Sewage Sludge, also known as biosolids, is defined as treated solid, semi-solid residue generated as a byproduct of the treatment of domestic or industrial sewage. These residues include scum and solids removed in primary, secondary or advanced wastewater treatment processes derived from treated or non-treated sewage sludge.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION:

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500. Every violation of this ordinance shall be construed as a separate offense for each day during which such violation continues and shall be punishable as provided in this section. Existing permit holders have six months to discontinue the importation of biosolids into Imperial County.

Consecuencias negativas adicionales significativas del importar el fango de aguas negras ya tratado al condado incluye lo siguiente: 1) el almacenamiento de materiales que se acercan a un 90% de sólidos totales pueden dirigir a una combustión espontánea con los subsiguientes incendios y riesgo de explosión; 2) los contribuyentes van a cargar el peso de pagar para el mantenimiento de caminos y carreteras; y 3) el Condado Imperial es un productor mayor de la producción de comida de la nación y cualquier asociación negativa que comprometa la calidad o seguridad de las cosechas va a tener un efecto dañino en la economía local.

La intención de esta ordenanza es la de proteger la salud pública, promover el bienestar y mantener la economía del Condado Imperial.

AUTORIDAD:

Esta ordenanza es adoptada de acuerdo al poder iniciativo del Pueblo del Condado Imperial y el Pueblo del Condado Imperial y el poder policial del Condado Imperial como se establece en el Artículo XI, Sección 7, de la Constitución de California.

DEFINICIONES:

ELIMINACIÓN -

La eliminación incluye almacenamiento, incineración, conversión química, procesamiento, aplicación al suelo, o tirarlo en terrenos públicos o privados o en sitios dentro del Condado Imperial.

FANGO DE AGUAS NEGRAS -

Fango de Aguas Negras, también conocido como biosólidos, se define como un sólido que ha sido tratado, un permanente semi-sólido originado como producto secundario del tratamiento de aguas negras domésticas o industriales. Estos residuos incluyen espuma de impurezas y sólidos que son sacados en procesos de tratamiento primario, secundario o avanzado de agua de desperdicio derivada del fango de aguas negras ya tratado o no tratado.

CASTIGO POR DESOBEDECER: -

Cualquier persona que quebranta cualquier disposición de esta ordenanza es culpable de un delito menor y al ser condenado del mismo será castigado con una multa de no más de \$500. Cualquier desobediencia a esta ordenanza será considerada como un delito separado por cada día durante el cuál dicha desobediencia continúe y se castigará como se dispone en esta sección. Los que tienen permiso en existencia tienen seis meses para discontinuar la importación de biosólidos al Condado Imperial.



VOTER'S PAMPHLET - PANFLETO DEL ELECTOR
MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS - MEDIDAS ANALISIS Y ARGUMENTOS

Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.
Los argumentos en favor o en contra de las leyes propuestas son los opiniones de los autores.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE X

VOTE YES ON MEASURE X TO STOP IMPERIAL COUNTY FROM BECOMING A NATIONAL DUMPING GROUND FOR HUMAN WASTE OR SEWAGE SLUDGE.

The Problem: Poor rural communities are increasingly being exploited by big cities in the area of waste disposal. Out of county disposal companies will profit from the importation and incineration of sewage sludge at the expense of all Imperial County residents.

- **PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH:** Incineration of sewage sludge produces significant amounts of air and water contaminants through runoff, evaporation, and emissions. Sewage sludge contains heavy metals, pathogens, chemical pollutant, radioactive elements, and synthetic organic compounds which will cause a severe public health risk.
- **SAFEGUARD OUR LOCAL ECONOMY:** The local economy is dependent upon agricultural activities and considered to be a major national and international food supplier. Any negative perception associated with the mass importation or disposal of sewage sludge in Imperial County will have a devastating effect.
- **PREVENT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF INCREASED SEMI-TRAILER TRUCK TRAFFIC:** There will be a significant increase of diesel emissions and the risk of hazardous waste spills. More trucks on the road mean more risk of injuries or fatalities.

Measure X was authored by IV Residents for Health and Safety First a local grassroots group of Imperial County residents specifically formed to ban the importation of sewage sludge.

SAYING YES TO MEASURE X

The following cities have already adopted resolutions to ban the importation of sewage sludge: IMPERIAL, CALIPATRIA, WESTMORLAND, AND CALEXICO.

s/ Maria Nava, Vice President
IV Residents for Health and Safety First

s/ Ayrón S. Moiola
Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association

s/ Rosalinda Nava-Bermudez, MPH, CHES
Children's Health Advocate; Founder/Director of The Family Treehouse

s/ Luis Olmedo
Comite Civico del Valle

s/ Gaylla A. Finnell, MPA
Educator and Public Advocate

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE
WAS SUBMITTED**

ARGUMENTO A FAVOR DE LA MEDIDA X

VOTE SÍ POR LA MEDIDA X PARA IMPEDIR QUE EL CONDADO IMPERIAL LLEGUE A SER EL LUGAR NACIONAL PARA TIRAR DESPERDICIO HUMANO O FANGO DE AGUAS NEGRAS.

El Problema: Comunidades rurales pobres están siendo más y más explotadas por las ciudades grandes en lo que se trata de la eliminación del desperdicio. Compañías de basura fuera del condado se van a beneficiar de la importación e incineración de fango de aguas negras a expensas de todos los Residentes del Condado Imperial.

- **PROTEJA LA SALUD PÚBLICA:** La incineración del fango de aguas negras produce cantidades significativas de contaminantes del aire y del agua a través de escurrimiento, evaporación y emisiones. El fango de aguas negras contiene metales pesados, patógenos, contaminantes químicos, elementos radioactivos, y compuestos orgánicos sintéticos que van a causar un serio riesgo a la salud pública.
- **MANTENGA A SALVO NUESTRA ECONOMIA LOCAL:** La economía local depende de las actividades agrícolas y es considerada como un importante proveedor de alimentos nacional e internacionalmente. Cualquier percepción negativa asociada con la importación masiva o la eliminación de fango de aguas negras en el Condado Imperial va a tener un efecto devastador.
- **IMPIDA EL IMPACTO NEGATIVO DEL AUMENTO EN EL TRAFICO DE CAMIONES DE SEMI-REMOLQUE:** Va a haber un aumento significativo de emisiones diesel y el riesgo de desperdicio peligroso volcado. Más camiones en el camino significa más riesgo de lastimaduras y muertes.

La Medida X fue autorizada por los Residentes para la Salud y la Seguridad Primero de IV un grupo local de origen popular de residentes del Condado Imperial formado para prohibir la importación de fango de aguas negras.

DICIENDO QUE SÍ A LA MEDIDA X

Las siguientes ciudades ya han adoptado resoluciones para prohibir la importación de fango de aguas negras: IMPERIAL, CALIPATRIA, WESTMORLAND, Y CALEXICO.

f/ María Nava, Vice Presidenta
Residentes para la Salud y Seguridad Primero de IV

f/ Ayrón S. Moiola
Asociación de Sembradores de Vegetales, Valle Imperial

f/ Rosalind Nava-Bermudez, MPH, CHES
Protectora de la Salud de los Niños; Fundadora/Directora de "Family Treehouse"

f/ Luis Olmedo
Comité Cívico del Valle

f/ Gaylla A. Finnell, MPA
Educatora y Protectora Pública

**NINGUN ARGUMENTO EN CONTRA DE ESTA
MEDIDA FUE SOMETIDO**



**VOTER'S PAMPHLET - PANFLETO DEL ELECTOR
MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS - MEDIDAS ANALISIS Y ARGUMENTOS**

Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.
Los argumentos en favor o en contra de las leyes propuestas son los opiniones de los autores.

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE X**

This ordinance, called the "Health and Safety First Ordinance of 2007," amends the Imperial County Codified Ordinances by making it unlawful to import sewage sludge into Imperial County with the intention of disposing of it therein. To be adopted, the ordinance must be approved by a majority of the voters. "Sewage sludge," also known as bio-solids, is defined as treated solid or semi-solid residue generated as a byproduct of the treatment of domestic or industrial sewage. "Disposal" means storing, incinerating, chemically converting, processing, applying or dumping upon, private or public land. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect citizens from the health and safety hazards connected with the importing and disposing of sewer sludge. The ordinance prohibits any governmental agency or entity from authorizing the disposal of imported sewer sludge. Existing holders of permits allowing disposal of imported sewer sludge have 6 months to discontinue importing sludge. The authority for the ordinance is found at Art. XI, Sec. 7 of the California Constitution, which states that a county may make and enforce all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws. Any portion of the ordinance deemed unconstitutional is unenforceable, but the remaining portions shall remain enforceable. A violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500. Every day of violation is a separate offense.

A "yes" vote is a vote to enact an ordinance prohibiting the importation of sewer sludge into Imperial County with the intention of disposing of it therein.

A "no" vote is a vote not to enact such an ordinance.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure X. If you desire a complete copy of the measure, please call the elections official's office at (760) 482-4226, and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

Very truly yours,

RALPH CORDOVA, JR.
County Counsel

s/ Linda S. Tucker
Deputy County Counsel

**ANALISIS IMPARCIAL POR EL ABOGADO DEL CONDADO
DE LA MEDIDA X**

Esta ordenanza, llamada la "Primera Ordenanza de Salubridad y Seguridad de 2007" modifica las Ordenanzas Codificadas del Condado Imperial al hacer ilegal la importación de fango de aguas negras al Condado Imperial con la intención de eliminarlo en el mismo. Para ser adoptada, la ordenanza debe de ser aprobada por una mayoría de los votantes. "Fango de Aguas Negras," también conocido como bio-sólidos, es definido como un sólido tratado o un residuo semisólido que se origina como producto secundario del tratamiento de aguas negras domésticas o industriales. "Eliminación" quiere decir almacenar, incinerar, convertir de manera química, procesar, aplicarlo o echarlo en tierra privada o pública. El propósito de la ordenanza es el de proteger a los ciudadanos de los peligros a la salud y seguridad conectados con la importación y eliminación de fango de aguas negras. La ordenanza le prohíbe a cualquier agencia gubernamental o entidad el autorizar la eliminación de fango de aguas negras importado. Los actuales poseedores de permiso que permiten la eliminación de fango de aguas negras importado tienen seis meses para discontinuar importando el fango. La autoridad para la ordenanza se encuentra en el Artículo XI, Sección 7 de la Constitución de California, que declara que un condado puede pasar y hacer cumplir todas las ordenanzas locales, de policía, salubridad y otras y reglamentos que no estén en conflicto con las leyes generales. Cualquier porción de la ordenanza considerada inconstitucional no se puede hacer cumplir, pero las porciones permanentes van a cumplirse. Desobedecer o quebrantar esta ordenanza es un delito menor, que se castiga con una multa de no más de \$500. Cada día de desobediencia es un delito separado.

Un voto de "sí" es un voto para promulgar una ordenanza prohibiendo la importación de fango de aguas negras al Condado Imperial con la intención de eliminarlo dentro del mismo.

Un voto de "no" es un voto para no promulgar tal ordenanza.

La declaración antes dada es un análisis imparcial de la Medida X. Si Ud desea una copia completa de la medida, por favor llame a la oficina del encargado de elecciones al (760) 482-4226, y se le enviará una copia gratis.

Atentamente,

RALPH CORDOVA, JR.
Abogado del Condado

f/ Linda S. Tucker
Abogada Delegada del Condado



AGENDA

DAQ
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1 OR MORE)
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1.14 +96
5.07 +53
3.65 -10.17

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Airport Land Use Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m., December 19, 2007, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 940 Main Street, El Centro, California

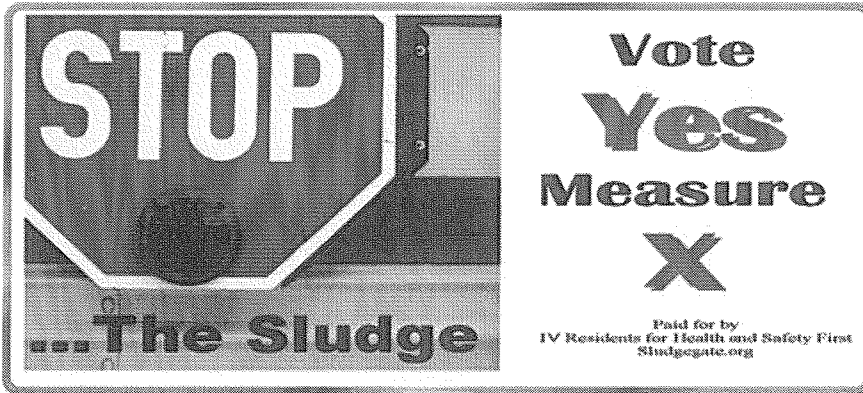
- COMMISSIONERS: Larry Allen (Chairman), Bob Douthitt (Vice-Chairman), Jeffery Enz, Charles Baker, Lt. Matt Howard and Robert Weigele
1. 6:00 PM Roll Call.
 2. Approval of the Minutes of September 19, 2007.
 3. 6:15 PM Public Hearing to consider if the County of Imperial's proposed optional element to the existing General Plan, that is entitled the "Parks and Recreation Element" for assisting in the creation of new policies, goals and objectives for future parks and recreation facilities throughout Imperial County, is consistent with the 1996 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUC 15-07).
 4. 6:30 PM Public Hearing to consider if the proposed Variance #07-0008 submitted by Liberty Energy Resources, Inc. to allow structures to exceed the 80-foot height limit within the proposed M-2 (Medium Industrial) Zone up to 125-foot for the Liberty XX electric generation plant, northwest of the townsite of Niland, Assessor's Parcel Numbers 003-200-063/064/065-000, 123.15 acres, 8842 English Road, Niland, is consistent with the 1996 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUC 16-07).
 5. 6:45 PM Public Hearing to consider if the proposed Minor Subdivision, PM #2429, submitted by Mr. Aguirre and Mr. Preciado, to create two parcels out of the three existing parcels, totaling approximately 2.18 acres each, within the C Zone of the Imperial County Airport, north of the City of Imperial, Assessor's Parcel Numbers 043-032-027/028/043/044-000, Neckel/La Brucherie Roads, Imperial, is consistent with the 1996 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUC 17-07).
 6. 7:00 PM Non-Action Items.
 7. 7:15 PM Adjournment

Sunday, December 9, 2007 Imperial Valley Press B7

IMPERIAL COUNTY: LIBERTY TRYING TO BUILD 125' HIGH PLANT

IMPERIAL

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Thank you Imperial County. Public policy that protects the health of all living in Imperial Valley.

For more information: Rosie Nava-Bermudez, truth@sludgegate.org

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"Sludge could go south"-IVPRESS-Darren Simon 05/17/2007

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Written by truth

Thursday, 17 May 2007

If Liberty 20 doesn't come to fruition in the Niland area, perhaps Liberty 25 will in Mexicali.

That's the word from Liberty Energy, the Bakersfield company proposing to build a sludge-to-energy plant near Niland.

Liberty 20 is the name of the proposed plant that would be built four miles north of Niland. That facility would generate 15 megawatts of energy from biomass — including human waste — trucked in from Los Angeles and other urban areas.

Liberty 25 is the name of a plant that would move forward if Liberty 20 fails. It would be built across the border in Mexicali, said Wilson Nolan, president of Liberty Energy.

If Liberty 20 is built, there would be no need to build a facility in Mexicali, Nolan said.

A plant built across the border would mean as many as 100 trucks carrying sludge would pass through Imperial County daily, likely along Highway 111, Nolan said, en route to the Calexico East Port of Entry.

"It's not meant to intimidate or discourage the process with Liberty 20," Nolan said. "It's just the reality of business."

IF LIBERTY 20 FAILS

Nolan's comments came Wednesday in response to questions as to what Liberty Energy's plans would be if its proposed Niland project fails.

Imperial County Supervisor Gary Wyatt, who has voiced support for the Liberty 20 project, said it should come as no surprise that Liberty Energy would look to Mexicali.

"It's a smack in the face of reality," Wyatt said.

He said it makes more sense to have the sludge-to-energy plant built in Imperial County rather than allowing the project to go to Mexicali.

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"We still will have the implications but none of the benefit — no jobs, no property tax, no mitigation, no control," Wyatt said. "These things should be built on our side of the border so we can control them."

Rosie Nava, who has been a leading voice in an organized campaign against Liberty Energy's proposed Niland plant, said county officials should be responsive to their constituents.

She said if county officials are going to decide the fate of the Liberty Energy project based on money issues, then "there is more corruption in the county than I thought."

Nava said she, too, is not surprised Liberty would consider building across the border.

"What they are proposing is consistent with the level of environmental racism they are engaging in," she said, alleging the company targets communities with Hispanic populations.

She said just as her organization has fought against the proposed Niland facility, it will fight against any project in Mexicali.

But, she said that new fight would become a bi-national effort. She said her group would partner and educate their counterparts across the border on the Liberty issue.

CONTROVERSIAL HISTORY

Liberty Energy's history in the Valley has been filled with controversy as opposition to the project has gone from more random picketing to a much more organized effort to block the project.

Liberty 20 represents the company's third effort to open a sludge-to-energy plant in the Valley.

The first effort failed in 2003 when the county Planning Commission said no to the project, which at that time was proposed to be placed at an abandoned wood-burning plant on Dogwood Road.

The second effort, Liberty 10, failed when the company stopped its effort to obtain a permit in the wake of opposition. That plant was to be located in the central part of the county between Brawley and Imperial.

With Liberty 20, the company has proposed to build a plant near Niland, and while opposition to the project has been strong, this latest project has moved forward with more support than the earlier projects among some county supervisors.

Along with taking waste from outside Imperial County, the facility also would process waste produced inside the county, including manure from local cattle ranches.

"I'd say we are cautiously optimistic," Nolan said about the future of Liberty 20. "We see a great deal of support for the project. We also see the opposition spending vast sums of money to oppose the project."

Nolan said the company has to look at alternatives.

There is another project planned for Banning, Liberty 23, which will move forward, he said, regardless of what happens with Liberty 20.

Then there is Liberty 25, the Mexicali proposal.

"It's insurance should Liberty 20 fail," he said.

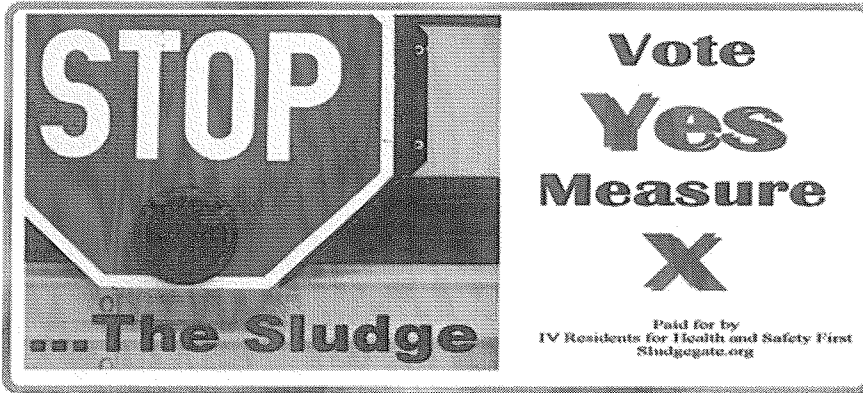
>> Staff Writer [Darren Simon](#) can be contacted at dsimon@ivpressonline.com or at 337-3445.

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Last Updated (Thursday, 17 May 2007)

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Residents ban importation of sewer sludge into Imperial County. For more information: Rosie Nava-Bermudez, truth@sludgegate.org

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Liberty bows out gracefully -IVPRESS article by Eric Galvan

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Written by truth

Thursday, 27 March 2008

Liberty Energy will not move forward with its sludge plant in Niland and it has nothing to do with Measure X, a Liberty official said Tuesday.

Due to rising fuel prices Liberty has pulled its application for the waste-to-energy plant in Imperial County's Northend, Liberty spokesman Luis Plancarte said.

"Due to changing market conditions and the added cost of transporting to Niland, Liberty has made a business decision to withdraw its application," Plancarte said.

Bakersfield-based Liberty Energy had proposed a waste-to-energy plant that would have taken biosolids and biowastes known as sludge and converted them into renewable energy. The sludge would have been trucked to Niland from throughout Southern California.

However, in February voters passed Measure X, an ordinance that bans the importation of sludge into Imperial County.

An environmental impact report had yet to be released on the plant and following the vote Liberty Chief Executive Officer Wilson Nolan said the project would continue to move forward.

Plancarte said Tuesday, Liberty had invested "hundreds of thousands" of dollars into the project.

But he said because the price of diesel gasoline is about \$4.20 a gallon, about \$1.20 more than it was last year, transportation wouldn't be cost efficient.

He did say Liberty still owns the property in the Niland area and maybe down the road will consider looking into a solar energy plant. He said it was likely Liberty will not build a sludge plant in that location.

Monique Lopez, an opponent of the sludge plant and a proponent of Measure X, said she and other residents were pleased to hear the news about Liberty pulling out.

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"This has been an issue we've been working on for a year and a half," Lopez said. "And regardless of the reason, we're pleased they decided to bow out."

Not everyone in the Northend was happy with Liberty's decision to pull out.

Doug Kline, superintendent of the Calipatria Unified School District, said by the plant not moving forward the school district loses as much as a million dollars in property tax money.

The school district receives money from the state and from property taxes. If the district reaches \$7.5 million in property taxes annually, the state would not need to give the district funding. The school district would get the full \$7.5 million gained through property taxes and it would not be subject to state budget cuts.

So, to Kline, those extra million dollars was going to move his district closer to "basic aid," not needing state money.

"We were potentially getting a million dollars from that plant," he said. "When I'm a couple million dollars away, it makes a big difference."

Kline said there are other projects in the area that potentially could lead to his district receiving more in property taxes. Until then, he said it's a wait and see.

Liberty will now focus its attention on the Banning area where it has a plant and will be moving sludge from the Colton area.

"It's a big decision," Plancarte said of pulling out. "But, it just really comes down to it being a business decision."

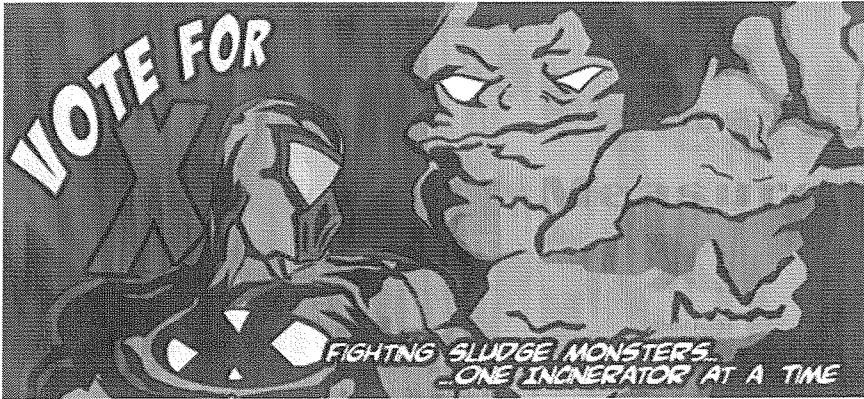
>> Staff Writer [Eric Galvan](#) can be reached at 337-3441 or at egalvan@ivpressonline.com Write Comment (0 Comments)

Last Updated (Thursday, 27 March 2008)

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NEW!!! Rule change shocks company (Liberty)

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Written by truth
 Tuesday, 07 August 2007
 Liberty Energy told it must restart environment screening for \$60m power plant

Eric McGuinness
 The Hamilton Spectator

(Jul 21, 2007)

A change in provincial regulations means Liberty Energy, which has spent two years and millions of dollars trying to win approval for a \$60-million Hamilton power plant fuelled by sewage sludge and wood waste, must start its environmental screening process all over.

Critics are pleased and the company can't believe the rules are being changed at so late a date and supporters say the move will discourage private investment in renewable energy in Ontario.

Liberty CEO Wilson Nolan said yesterday: "We are shocked and dismayed that a government process can take away something that a company has accrued in spending millions of dollars and two years of time in good faith in meeting the requirements."

The California-based company applied in July 2005 as an electricity generator. That required only a Class B screening -- not as a waste plant, which would have had to undergo a more rigorous Class C assessment -- and was encouraged to proceed by the Environment Ministry.

The City of Hamilton, Hamilton East MPP Andrea Horwath, Councillor Sam Merulla and Environment Hamilton all argued the proposal should have been treated the same as a garbage incinerator.

The city and other parties asked the ministry to bump up the application to Class C, and a decision on those requests was expected any day. But now the ministry says Liberty's plan falls under regulations passed in March aimed at streamlining the assessment of energy-from-waste projects.

Spokesman Mark Rabbior said there is no provision for continuing the old screening, the bump-up requests will die with it and Liberty has to begin a new screening, but not a full assessment.

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"From the government's perspective," he said, "it's all about ensuring projects are properly reviewed."

Environment Hamilton's Lynda Lukasik said, "We're happy." But John Dolbec, chief executive officer of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, called the ministry action "fundamentally unfair, unfair and bizarre."

Environmental law specialist Dianne Saxe, who noted bump-up requests are normally turned down, said: "There's no justification I can think of for requiring an environmental assessment to start over after two years ... especially if we want investors to build more facilities. One thing they need is certainty."

emcguinness@thespec.com

905-526-4650

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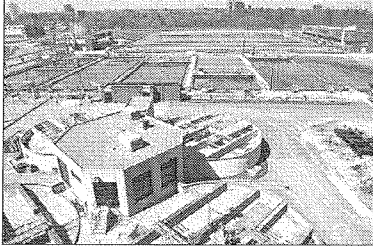
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Friend or foe, there's a good chance Hamilton will become home to a sewage sludge incinerator. Reporter Eric McGuinness takes a look at some contenders.

May 10, 2008



by Eric McGuinness, The Hamilton Spectator



Gary Yokoyama, the Hamilton Spectator

What: Liberty Energy Centre. Proposed power plant fuelled by sewage sludge and wood waste

Where: Strathearne Avenue

Emissions: Forecast to be well within Ontario limits

Energy emissions: 10 megawatts (enough to power 8,000 homes)

Liberty Energy aims to make Hamilton the first place in North America to generate electricity by burning sewage sludge and plant waste -- from grass clippings to wood chips.

The California-based company will use fluidized-bed incinerators to burn sludge, a process used in Peel region and St. Paul, Minn.

What's different is adding wood waste to the damp, spongy sludge to create more energy and more power potential.

Liberty hopes to do the same thing in its home state, but its Hamilton plan is the most advanced.

Controversy has arisen over trucking in sludge from other cities, a requirement for Liberty's plant -- and burning it in an airshed already burdened by industrial emissions.

That's why city council is asking the environment ministry to encourage Liberty to use rail and barge transportation, and to require a comprehensive air monitoring program.

Environment Hamilton has said emissions estimates "suggest that the potential exists" for the plant to double Hamilton's levels of cancer-causing dioxin. Liberty says the process would take 38 years to produce one gram of dioxin.

Agatha Garcia Wright, of the environmental approvals and assessment branch, said she is satisfied the company can comply with provincial air-quality regulations.

Chief executive officer Wilson Nolan sees the \$125-million Liberty Energy Centre as an innovative, green industry that will create 750 person-years of construction work and inject \$10 million a year into the local economy while generating 10 megawatt hours of electricity, enough to power 8,000 homes.

What: EnQuest steam reformation process for sludge disposal

Where: Small-scale pilot plant in Sault Ste. Marie

Emissions: Forecast to be similar to natural gas boiler. No dioxins or furans.

Energy production: Possible

Mark Mullins of Dundas thinks he has a better way to get rid of sewage sludge or garbage.

Other stories like this one ...

Drink

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- [Comment RE: Notice published on July 28, 2008 in the Canada Gazette, Part 1.](#)

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Swim

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- [Belmont Lake plan involves cottagers in process](#)

He's vice-president of EnQuest Power Corp., a Niagara-based company running a Sault Ste. Marie pilot plant aimed at proving it can turn municipal solid waste into clean-burning gas and electricity without producing the toxic dioxins and furans that result from incineration.

EnQuest has been testing its steam-reformation process on garbage since last September, and says it will switch to sludge in June, hoping to become a credible contender before Hamilton completes an environmental assessment on disposing of its sludge.

Company president Jayson Zwierschke has his sights set higher, saying he doesn't want Liberty Energy to corner the power-from-sludge market without a fight.

Mullins says steam reformation has two big attractions -- no fire and it uses little air, reducing the price of pollution control.

EnQuest's system shreds garbage and feeds it like sausage filling into a steam-heated, oxygen-starved chamber where organic substances break down, producing a synthetic gas that can be cleaned and burned.

"At the end, all the biological material is gone, only metals are left. They can be cooled and disposed of as hazardous waste. No fossil fuel is used once the process starts, so it's a carbon-neutral application."

Mullins says EnQuest is discussing construction of a full-scale plant in Sault Ste. Marie and another that would burn garbage to heat and power a commercial greenhouse operation in Norfolk. There have been inquiries from Chicago and New York.

What: G.E. Booth (Lakeview) plant. Largest sludge incineration facility in North America

Where: Lakeshore Road, Mississauga

Emissions: Said to meet Ontario air quality regulations

Energy Production: None

Peel Region has two of North America's newest fluidized-bed sewage sludge incinerators, already burning more sludge than Hamilton produces, and is about to build two more. That will make the Lakeview waste water treatment plant the largest sludge incineration facility on the continent.

Staff say emissions meet all provincial regulations, and environmentalists don't seem to be bothered by it.

The Lakeview, or G. E. Booth, plant occupies prime shoreline property just west of Dixie Road in Mississauga. It consists of a bunch of nondescript brick buildings, open tanks and pipes like most other sewage treatment plants. These are four hot-windbox units that need no added fuel.

Project manager Wendy Teufel led us to a concrete-panelled structure housing the first incinerator, Thermal Oxidation Unit 4, which has been running for two years.

"This is our incinerator," she said, pointing past orange-painted gas pipes to a six-storey silver funnel rising through the centre of the building.

No noise. No dirt. No heat. No smell. No sign the thing was even running.

Sludge feeds into the furnace just above a bed of red-hot sand, kept fluid and bubbling by jets of super-hot air from the firebrick-lined windbox below. The sludge vaporizes and burns almost instantly at about 825 C. Oil or gas is used to start the process, then heat from the incinerator is piped back to the windbox. The exhaust gas is scrubbed clean and fly ash is washed into an outdoor lagoon.

The Lakeview plant burns sludge produced there as well as sludge trucked in from the Clarkson sewage plant, which produces three or four truckloads a day -- about the same amount as Hamilton's Woodward Avenue plant.

Pollution concerns?

Incineration is a dirty word to some environmentalists.

The zero waste movement doesn't consider burning waste to be ethical or sustainable. Many people worry about stack emissions of fine particulate matter, metals and trace dioxins. Some say it wastes a resource -- in the case of sludge, the plant nutrient value. For others, it's an inefficient way of producing energy.

When confronted with the argument that sludge is too contaminated to put on farmland, those who are anti-incineration say we should keep the contaminants out of our waste water or find ways to remove them in sewage treatment plants.

Those who favour incineration say it's a good way to reduce the volume of wastes like garbage and sludge, leaving only a small percentage of ash to be landfilled, and sludge ash has been recycled into cement. Some researchers say phosphorus can be recovered from the ash for fertilizer.

Municipalities such as Peel Region say stack emissions from their sludge incinerators meet all Ontario air quality rules.

Liberty Energy says it will perform better than required.

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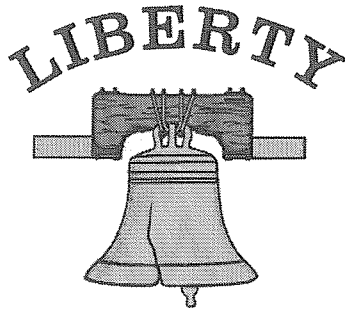
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Last updated
08/27/2003

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McCarthy Family Farms, Inc.



Liberty Transport

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HOW CAN LIBERTY ENERGY AFFORD FOR THEIR “POWER PLANT” TO COST OVER 10 TIMES THAT OF A COMPARABLE CONVENTIONAL POWER PLANT ?

FOLLOW THE MONEY !

Conventional Coal or Natural Gas power plants cost about \$ 1 Million per MW to build. A proposed 15 MW conventional plant therefore would cost about \$ 15 Million.

The Liberty “Power Plant” , however, will cost more than \$ 180 Million to build. That is more than \$ 10 Million per MW , more than **10 times as much !**

How can Liberty Energy be competitive producing energy while having 10 times the overhead ? Why are they willing to spend 10 times as much per MW than anybody else ? How can they make money ?

Very simple. The production of energy is not the real reason of the plant. **It is just a cover. A “front”**, so they can get the plant approved. After all, who would ever want just an incinerator ?

The big money is in the sludge business. It comes from disposing of the sludge. Municipalities will pay an ABSOLUTE FORTUNE to get rid of their toxic sludge. They are desperate to get rid of it – nobody wants it because the toxins are so problematic. That’s where Liberty comes in and makes a KILLING . The truth is Liberty Energy would make just about the same amount of money if they didn’t produce any electricity at all or gave it away for free.

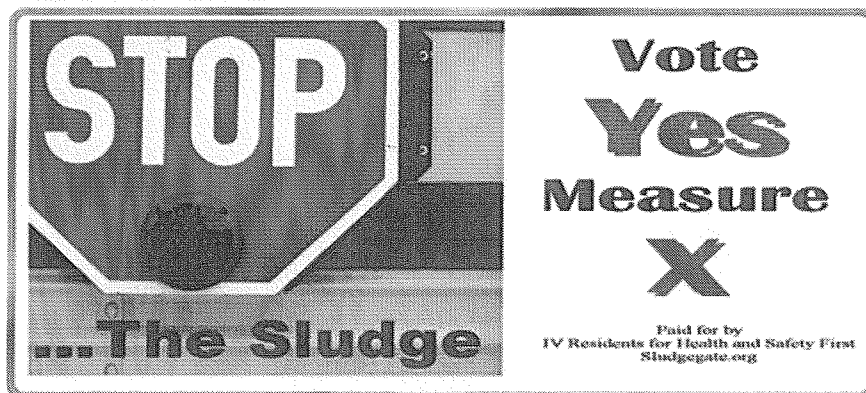
Their true economic purpose is to get rid of as much toxic sludge as possible. This is NOT “green energy”. It’s a hoax. **The less energy efficient they operate the plant, the more money they make.** The more sludge they burn to generate the 15 MW the better for their bottom line.

It is therefore not surprising that Canadian studies have also confirmed this “inefficiency by design” : 84 % of the energy produced here exits as heat via the huge cooling towers while only 16 % is being converted to electricity (see attached article citing Professor Pengelly).

This project has nothing to do with “green energy”. Deception is the name of the game. The economics make it crystal clear that Liberty Energy’s true intention is to operate an extremely lucrative sludge incinerator - under the cover of a “power plant”, of course.

MONEY - ONE MORE REASON IT’S AN INCINERATOR, NOT A “POWER PLANT”

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Mac prof leads push for full assessment of sludge plant

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Written by Administrator
Tuesday, 21 November 2006

Mac prof leads push for full assessment of sludge plant
by Hamilton Spectator, Eric McGuinness
February 2006

An expert on the effect of air pollution on humans worries about what will come out of smokestacks at the proposed Liberty Energy Centre.

The centre would burn sewage sludge and wood waste to generate electricity on Strathearne Avenue in east Hamilton.

David Pengelly, an associate professor in the medical schools at both McMaster University and the University of Toronto, is one of 11 individuals and organizations -- including the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Centre NDP MPP Andrea Horwath -- asking the Ontario Environment Ministry for a full environmental assessment of the plant. He calls emission of nitrogen oxides, "an urgent matter of public health concern," especially when Liberty's own consultants say the Hamilton airshed, "has shown signs of reaching its capacity."

Pengelly also wonders if the plant is being built more to get rid of sludge than to produce energy, noting it expects to sell 10 megawatts of electricity, but will release over 53 megawatts of heat through its cooling towers.

"Thus less than one-fifth of the energy output of the process gets converted to electricity. We could get 10 MW (megawatts) of electrical power for Hamilton from almost any other source with far less pollution," he wrote in his submission to the province.

The plant's purpose is a significant issue. The developer, McCarthy Family Farms of California, is applying for approval to build a renewable energy power plant, which requires only an environmental screening. But a waste disposal plant would need a more expensive and time consuming full-scale assessment, like the one being done by Hamilton and Niagara for a possible garbage incinerator or landfill.

Environment Hamilton, in its petition for a full assessment, says Liberty Energy would incinerate more than 550,000 tonnes a year -- more than double the capacity of the proposed Niagara-Hamilton energy-from-waste plant.

Site Updates

Residents ban importation of sewer sludge into Imperial County. For more information: Rosie Nava-Bermudez, truth@sludgegate.org

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- Mac prof leads push for full assessment of sludge plant
- "Sludge could go south"-IVPRESS-Darren Simon 05/17/2007
- Waiting on the World to Change

Liberty Energy's chief executive officer, Wilson Nolan, says the proposed plant will be "a very small emitter" of air pollutants. He also argues that thermal power plants are inherently inefficient, whatever the fuel, but says the Hamilton plant's heat-to-hydro ratio will be within power industry norms even though it will have to use some heat in order to dry wet sludge.

Who's Online
We have 1 guest online

Twelve requests for a bump-up from a screening to full assessment were received by the ministry by the mid-January deadline, but Community Action Parkdale East withdrew after the company agreed to sweep Strathearne and limit truck traffic in the neighbourhood.

Ministry spokesman John Steele said it's now up to the approvals branch director to rule on the remaining requests. If they are turned down, the decision can be appealed to Environment Minister Laurel Broten.

Environment Hamilton notes the Liberty Energy plant would be the first of its kind in Canada and only the second in North America. Brenda Johnson of Environment Hamilton, who flew on McCarthy's private plane to a similar plant in Minnesota, reported neighbour complaints about a burning smell kilometres away.

The organization also cited California sources that reported Liberty Energy's parent company had gone bankrupt in the late 1980s, had been accused of a water pollution offence in 1996 and was indicted for fraud over subsidies for growing cotton in the 1990s.

Nolan confirmed that a McCarthy company -- not the current McCarthy Family Farms -- once declared bankruptcy. U.S. media reported at the time it had to sell land worth over \$100 million to pay debts.

The CEO denied, however, that any McCarthy company had been indicted for fraud, though he acknowledged a dispute over crop support resulted in \$1.3 million being repaid to the federal government.

He also said a fish and wildlife officer had ticketed a 10,000-hectare McCarthy farm for the common California practice of adding fertilizer to water in irrigation canals. He said no fine was levied and "fertigation" continues.

"I don't think we're a bad environmental actor on the basis of that. People should see how little chemical we use and how little water is wasted. We even have a GPS navigation system for tractors so we use less chemical and seed. I take exception to us being characterized as a recalcitrant member of the community as relates to environmental ethics."

Nolan revealed McCarthy had received other violation notices for its sludge disposal and composting operations, "but basically we've got a very good environmental history."

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