



URGENT ALERT FOR INDIAN COUNTRY!

Incinerators in Disguise: New Toxic Threat to Indigenous Lands and People

Do you know what plasma arc, gasification and pyrolysis technologies are? It is important to learn about them because companies hoping to make millions of dollars are promoting these technologies to Native Nations and communities across the U.S. and the world, falsely claiming they can get rid of all types of waste with no pollution while generating “renewable energy.” Sound too good to be true?

In 1990, indigenous peoples held the first Protecting Mother Earth conference in Dilkon, Arizona on the Navajo Nation. That conference happened because Indigenous lands were being targeted by companies trying to build giant incinerators and dumps that would burn or dump toxic waste, garbage, medical waste and nuclear waste shipped in from far and wide. Indigenous people learned the truth and defeated almost every proposal for incinerators and dumps.

Today, dozens of companies are promoting pyrolysis, gasification and plasma arc technologies as a way to allegedly eliminate and “recycle” all types of waste into what they claim is “renewable energy”. Many of these companies falsely claim their technology is “pollution-free,” and has “no emissions.” Companies claim these are not incinerators but are a “green” alternative to incineration.

Despite industry claims, the facts prove that these technologies are “incinerators in disguise” that heat the waste materials and then burn the gases that are called “syngas.” This combustion process is the incineration that results in emissions of toxic and criteria pollutants into the air, including dioxins, highly toxic chemicals linked to a wide range of illnesses including cancer, reproductive, developmental and immunological diseases. Greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and global warming would also be emitted.

In the U.S., there have been only two commercial facilities that used these technologies for treating wastes, and both were failures and closed. Similar problems have been documented worldwide.

- Incinerators in disguise threaten to pollute our air, water, land and all living things.
- Incinerators threaten to turn Indigenous lands into a dumping ground for dangerous wastes that the industry and government officials would not want where they live.
- Incinerators undermine recycling, pollution prevention and renewable energy programs,

The Indigenous Environmental Network is working with Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice and the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives to stop incinerators in disguise and to promote truly renewable energy and zero waste programs. Please keep your eyes and ears open and alert us if you learn about incinerators in disguise being promoted in your area.

Visit Greenaction’s website to read reports, power points and case studies about incinerators in disguise:

www.greenaction.org

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