

COMMUNITY HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT!

SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY WANTS A GARBAGE INCINERATOR IN GONZALES – and is not telling the truth to the public!

Our Communities Need Better Recycling, Not Incineration & Pollution!

The Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority (SVSWA) wants to have a garbage incineration plant built in the Salinas area. They picked Gonzales as the location without first asking or telling residents. Once again, primarily low-income Latino communities are being targeted for polluting industries. An incinerator can threaten public health and the environment, and can also contaminate the food grown here which would harm the economy and jobs in the region.

The SVSWA picked a Canadian company called Plasco Energy, which uses plasma arc technology. SVSWA also wants to use an experimental technology called “autoclave.” At the January 20, 2011 SVSWA meeting, their staff presentation about the plasma arc incinerator included false claims that “nothing comes out” and that these technologies supposedly don’t emit toxic air contaminants.

Plasma arc technologies are in reality incinerators in disguise that would heat large amounts of garbage and then burn the gases, resulting in emissions of toxic contaminants and other pollutants into the air.

Los Angeles, Sacramento, Alameda, San Jose and Santa Cruz County considered similar gasification and plasma arc incineration technologies, but then rejected them after getting the facts.

Community, environmental, recycling and environmental justice groups are working to stop the incinerator and autoclave and want to increase recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion and other zero waste programs as the only safe alternative to incineration and landfills.

**Let the Board of Supervisors, the City of Gonzales
and the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority
Know What You Think! Contact them today!**

Email susanw@svswa.org to request being placed on the contact list for these projects & to comment on the proposals.

Gonzales Mayor Maria Orozco (831) 675-5000 cityclerk@ci.gonzales.ca.us

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**For more information: Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
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SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY WANTS TO HAVE A COMPANY BUILD A GARBAGE INCINERATOR IN THE SALINAS VALLEY!

Our Communities Need Better Recycling, Not Incineration & Pollution!

Here are some important facts about Plasco's plasma arc technology being promoted by the SVSWA:

Plasco's demonstration plasma arc plant in Ottawa, Canada has been plagued with operational problems from the start in 2008, and has been unable to run at full capacity. On many occasions, emissions exceeded the maximum operational limit.

Other problems include a wastewater spill, nine instances when the carbon bed was bypassed, and extensive failure of the system that feeds garbage into the unit. The facility has had problems handling large amounts of garbage. In the company's first year of operation, they processed only an average of 4 tons per day – about 5% of their goal - and often sent more waste back to the landfill than they were able to process.

On June 1, 2009, the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation issued a report rejecting Plasco and other plasma and gasification technologies. When Los Angeles City officials visited Plasco's facility, Plasco could not get the technology to work despite repeated attempts.

Plasco also makes certain claims that are not correct and are misleading. On their website they claim that the gas (called "syngas") created from the heating of the garbage is "clean" and has "no air emissions." The truth is that when in fact that syngas contains numerous toxic contaminants. The syngas is then burned, resulting in toxic pollution being emitted into the air.

Plasco also claims they can generate more than a megawatt-hour of net power per ton of waste processed, but this is also misleading as their average power generation is less.

Plasco's demonstration plant in Ottawa, Canada shut down in December, 2010 and they are now seeking new permits to resume operating.

**This update provided by Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
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