

# The Truth about Waste Incinerators in Curtis Bay

Energy Answers international (EA) is in the process of securing a construction permit to build a waste-to-energy incinerator in Baltimore, just one mile away from Curtis Bay Elementary School and Benjamin Franklin Middle School. These incinerators take household and hazardous wastes and burn them to create electricity.

## Health and Environmental Issues:

- Incinerators produce ash and gas that contains dioxins, heavy metals, particulates (very fine dust particles that cause respiratory and cardiovascular diseases), and inorganic acid gases. Some of these pollutants cause cancer.<sup>1</sup>
- Potential health impacts linked with incinerator pollution include cancer, asthma, bronchitis, developmental delays, and nerve damage.<sup>2</sup>
- The child cancer/leukemia risks of children living within 3 miles of incinerator sites were doubled in a 27-year medical study.<sup>3</sup>

## The Energy Answers Waste-to-Energy Incinerator in Curtis Bay

EA has received a permit to burn automotive shredder residue (plastic, rubber, vinyl, metal), scrap tires, wood waste, and municipal solid waste at its incinerator. The permit authorizes EA to emit 240 pounds of mercury each year, which could make the new waste incinerator one of the largest mercury emitters in the state of Maryland. High levels of mercury pollution has been linked to developmental delays and neurological health impacts on babies and children.

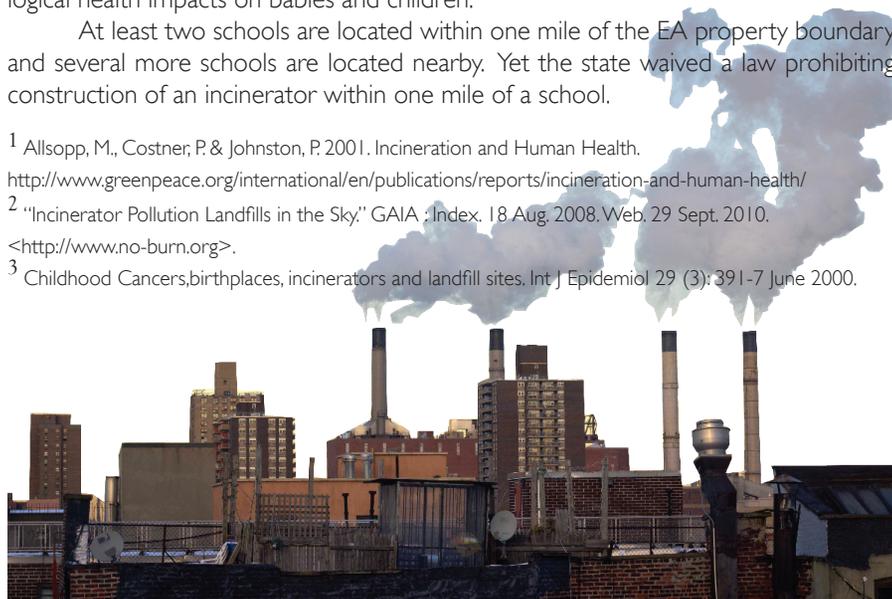
At least two schools are located within one mile of the EA property boundary, and several more schools are located nearby. Yet the state waived a law prohibiting construction of an incinerator within one mile of a school.

<sup>1</sup> Allsopp, M., Costner, P. & Johnston, P. 2001. Incineration and Human Health. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/reports/incineration-and-human-health/>

<sup>2</sup> "Incinerator Pollution Landfills in the Sky" GAIA :Index. 18 Aug. 2008. Web. 29 Sept. 2010.

<<http://www.no-burn.org>>.

<sup>3</sup> Childhood Cancers, birthplaces, incinerators and landfill sites. Int J Epidemiol 29 (3): 391-7 June 2000.



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