

Madsen, Søren R. N.

Fra: Schou, Lone

Sendt: 10. december 2008 14:18

Til: Madsen, Søren R. N.; Jakobsen, Dorte Skjøtt

Emne: VS: Australia to Export Hazardous Waste - We need your support

til sagen

Fra: Allan Andersen [mailto:aa@dn.dk]

Sendt: 10. december 2008 14:11

Til: Schou, Lone

Emne: Australia to Export Hazardous Waste - We need your support

Kære Lone
Til orientering
Allan

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Fra: Mariann Lloyd-Smith [mailto:biomap@oztoxics.org]

Sendt: 3. december 2008 05:00

Til: IPEN Network; GAIA

Emne: re: Australia to Export Hazardous Waste - We need your support

Dear Colleagues,

Australian company, Orica intends to export hazardous HCB waste to Denmark for incineration.

Australia has the technical capability to deal with its hazardous HCB waste stockpile; it should remain in Australia for treatment.

We need your support to stop this unnecessary and potentially dangerous export of hazardous waste from Australia.

Please indicate your willingness to sign on to NTN's objection to Orica's applications to export the HCB waste by 15th December 2008.

Australia Plans to Export Hazardous HCB Waste:

The Australian chemical company, Orica has again applied for a permit to export hazardous hexachlorobenzene (HCB) waste for incineration. This time it is for 6,000 of the 22,000 tonnes stockpile and it is to be sent to the Nyborg Incinerator in Denmark. Orica and the Australian government have not provided information on the fate of the remainder of the stockpile of HCB waste.

In 2007, Orica applied for a permit to export 22,000 tonnes of HCB waste to 4 incinerators in

Dormagen, Leverkusen, Brunsbuttel and Herten in Germany. The German states rejected the applications stating that they did not accept Orica's claims that Australia lacked the capacity to treat the waste. Orica has appealed the rejection in the courts. The outcome is still pending. Communities living around the German incinerators objected to the import of the toxic waste and 15,000 citizens signed petitions. Mayors of eleven cities representing more than one million German citizens loudly condemned the plan calling on the Government to stop Orica's attempt to dump toxic waste in Germany.

Proposal contravenes the Basel Convention :

NTN considers that the current proposal to export the waste to Denmark for incineration is in contravention of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes & their Disposal (1989) and the Australian Hazardous Waste Act. In Australia, export for final disposal is prohibited under the Hazardous Waste Act unless there are 'exceptional circumstances' (Section 18A). Orica argues there is no capacity in Australia to treat the HCB waste. NTN has maintained that the technical capacity does exist and Australia has a moral and legal responsibility to deal with its hazardous waste.

Australia does have the capability to destroy the HCB waste :

In Western Australia, an Ecologic Gas Phase Chemical Reduction (GPCR) technology treated POPs waste. Trevor Bridle who managed the Ecologic facility confirms that:

"The GPCR process was demonstrated, at commercial scale, using the Ecologic facility in Kwinana in 1999, as being suitable for the safe destruction of drummed HCB waste from Orica. The commercial trials showed that the organic compounds in the HCB waste were destroyed with greater than 99.99999% efficiency."

The technology holders have approached Orica to establish a new and further improved GPCR facility to destroy the HCB. Orica however dismissed this option stating that they would not consider using a technology that was not currently operating commercially on HCB wastes. As HCB is a POPs banned under the Stockholm Convention and Orica is the only major source of HCB wastes in Australia, it is not surprising that without support from Orica there is no facility in Australia currently operating commercially on HCB wastes. The real issue is not the lack of technical options but Orica's unwillingness to pay the cost of destruction through non-incineration options.

Australia has a long record in non-incineration technologies including Base Catalyst Dechlorination (BCD) and Plasma Arc destruction. These facilities have successfully destroyed the POPs stockpile from the Pacific Islands including PCBs and POP's pesticides.

Please sign on to NTN's objection to Orica's applications to export the HCB waste by 15th December 2008.

Send your signon to : info@ntn.org.au
and copy biomap@oztoxics.org

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