

Orica [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Side 1 af 1

til sagen

Fra: Hall, Damien [mailto:Damien.Hall@environment.gov.au]
Sendt: 19. februar 2009 23:59
Til: Schou, Lone
Emne: Orica [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Prioritet: Høj

Hi Lone,

Sorry about the previous e-mail with no text - I was about to send you this email but hit send before drafting it!

I have attached to this email a recent article in the Australian media (*The Australian* newspaper) which may be of interest to you.

I wanted to also let you know that I have provided the most recent SIA report and our responses to your questions to Mr Wasielewski for his information. I am not sure whether you have been in contact with him recently, but I wanted to make sure you both have the same information on the DRR and the SIA report.

In addition, I was wondering if it would appropriate for me to call you to discuss the status of the Orica applications later today/tonight our time? Alternatively, if it is possible, would you be able to provide me with an email updating me on the status of the applications and an indication of the possible timing from your end.

If you would like me to call could you please confirm the best number for me to reach you on? At the moment I have +45 72 54 43 21 otherwise an email response would be fine.

Warm Regards
Damien

<<190209 Orica Media Clip.pdf>>

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Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Mediaportal Report

19/02/2009

► **Toxic waste stockpile spurs export push**
Australian, 19/02/09, General News, Page 5
By: Sean Parnell

Clip Ref: 00047504747

400 words

Type: News Item

Photo: No

A NEW report has hacked federal government claims that some toxic waste cannot be destroyed in Australia, paving the way for a chemical stockpile in Sydney for waste being shipped to incinerators in Europe. For decades, the mining, explosives and chemical company Orica has stored more than 60,000 drums of the now-banned fungicide hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and related toxic waste at the Botany industrial site.

Keywords: Environment(1), environmental(1), environmentally(1), Government(4), manage(1), Minister(1), report(6), treat(1), treatment(1), waste(6), wastes(2)

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MEDIA MONITORS



Toxic waste stockpile spurs export push

Sean Parnell
FOI editor

A NEW report has backed federal government claims that some toxic waste cannot be destroyed in Australia, paving the way for a chemical stockpile in Sydney for waste being shipped to incinerators in Europe.

For decades, the mining, explosives and chemical company Orica has stored more than 60,000 drums of the now-banned fungicide hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and related toxic waste at the Botany industrial site.

The HCB — a carcinogenic and mutagenic byproduct of chlorinated solvent manufacturing — is so corrosive it has to be constantly repackaged, increasing the size of the stockpile by 10 per cent, or up to 2800 tonnes, every year.

Orica's attempts to ship barrels to Germany in 2007 were opposed by two German states, which are now engaged in a drawn-out appeal process.

As a fall-back, Orica asked operators

of a high-temperature incinerator in Denmark to take 6000 tonnes of the 16,000-tonne stockpile but needs Danish government approval.

The federal Government contracted Sustainable Infrastructure Australia to examine whether the stockpile could be destroyed locally, as recommended under the Basel convention signed in 1992. But it was advised in a report last month, obtained by *The Australian* using Freedom of Information laws, that there were no appropriate facilities in Australia to treat the waste, and that separating and transporting the waste would also be problematic.

"This contrasts significantly to the large industrial complexes in Europe, Asia and North America, which generate significant volumes of hazardous wastes and therefore have supported the technical and commercial development of large-scale treatment facilities to manage these wastes," the report states.

The report emphasises the need for Orica to find another solution soon,

especially given the ever-expanding stockpile is so close to the ocean, residential areas, the airport and only 8km from the Sydney CBD.

"It is considered an urgent matter that the HCB stockpile is destroyed in an environmentally responsible manner to reduce the significant risk to human health and environmental damage considering the long-term storage of the corrosive material," the report states.

A spokesman for Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett — whose electorate includes Botany — said he would not consider giving Orica an export permit until the Danish Government had made its decision.

The spokesman said the report was part of a range of advice that suggested Australia did not have the capacity to destroy HCB, which is banned under the Stockholm convention.

An Orica spokesman said the company was awaiting decisions from the German and Danish authorities.