

*The World's Largest Tire Incinerator proposed for Crawford County:
Information and Direction from Concerned Citizens*

DEP Hosted Meeting with CRE Executives: What Wasn't Said

Many things were left unclear after the DEP hosted meeting with CRE executives, October 26th at Conneaut Lake High School. Beginning with the most basic question: How does Crawford Renewable Energy consider burning tires to be renewable? Although CRE project manager, Greg Rubino, could not provide a clear answer, renewable energy is clearly defined as being, "any naturally occurring, theoretically inexhaustible source of energy, as biomass, solar, wind, tidal, wave, and hydroelectric power, that is *not derived from fossil fuel* or nuclear power" (dictionary.com). It takes 22 gallons of oil to produce one road tire and when combusted tires release about 2 gallons of oil per tire

(<http://www.green.ca.gov/EPP/vehicles/RetreadedTires.htm>; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tire_fire).

Along with fossil fuels, tires release toxic chemicals such as dioxin, chlorine, arsenic and heavy metals like lead, mercury and nickel. The proposed incinerator will release approximately 26 hazardous chemicals as cited in their air emissions application to the DEP. "Dioxins and furans are produced by tire incineration because tires contain chlorine...dioxins are highly toxic and cause serious health problems, including infertility, learning disabilities...birth defects, damage to the immune system and cancer...Based on the EPA's "risk specific dose" criteria, 0.0236 grams/year is

the equivalent of a *lifetime* maximum acceptable dose for over two million people"

(<http://www.energyjustice.net/tires>).

The proposed incinerator would emit .007 lbs. of dioxin/year or 3.178 grams/year. Dioxin is bad news for hunters, fishermen and farmers which make up the majority of Crawford County and the surrounding area. "The dioxin from plants and smokestacks falls out onto grazing land and is consumed by livestock which absorb it into their fat where it concentrates over time. Because dioxin fallout follows wind patterns, contamination can accumulate in areas far away from industrial development...EPA is standing behind its analysis that shows dioxin causes adverse health hazards at very low levels...We would say it is a serious public health hazard." <http://michiganmessenger.com/38492/epa-warns-of-dioxin-in-food>

Related Websites

- ★ <http://www.wasterecyclingnews.com/headlines.html>
- ★ <http://www.no-burn.org/>
- ★ <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/>
- ★ <http://www.gasp-pgh.org/>

900 Tons of Tires Every Day: Where Will They Come From ?

When asked about tire supply Rubino dismissed the origin of the company's raw material as a "trade secret."

The DEP website states that, "About 12.5 million waste tires are generated and recycled each year in Pennsylvania. Approximately two million waste tires remain in large stockpiles scattered throughout the state. In the last 11 years, 27.8 million waste tires have

been cleaned up." So, if the average tire weighs 15-30 lbs. and CRE plans to burn 1.8 million lbs. per day, using a conservative estimate of 30 lbs. per tire - all the scrap tires in PA would last CRE one month. This puts to rest the claim made at a July Greenwood Township meeting that CRE will get their tires "within a 50 mile radius of the site." As one concerned resident put it, " 'Trade Secrets' don't have a

very high BTU value. If the incinerator needs an air emissions permit based on TDF, yet has no more than a few month's supply of tires, then what fuel will be used to bring about all these 'good jobs'? CRE has never done a cost analysis of their raw materials because they don't have a supply source."

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/waste_tire_program/14097/home_\(2\)/589696](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/waste_tire_program/14097/home_(2)/589696)

Yes to Jobs!

Alternatives to Burning Tires

Burning tires for energy is not the only way to generate jobs or deal with scrap tires. Why hasn't CRE proposed to recycle 900 tons of tires every day? Businesses looking toward the future are finding many ways to reuse and recycle tires, and create jobs that do not threaten the health and safety of the surrounding community or the environment. "Viewing tires as a waste is a thing of the past. Burning tires is the worst possible use of a valuable resource that can be used *right now* to make economically viable products with zero waste and no emissions," as one C.A.R.E member puts it.

One tire recycling business based out of Pittsburgh, PA employs over a thousand people and recycles millions of tires a year: "Liberty Tire Recycling is the premier provider of tire recycling services in the United States. By reclaiming more than 33 percent of the nation's discarded tires, Liberty Tire annually transforms more than 110 million tires into raw materials for smart, sustainable products that improve people's lives" (<http://www.libertytire.com/Home.aspx>).

In 2007 Louisiana Elastomer was given a \$6.5 million loan to construct a TireCycle facility in New Orleans. According to an addendum written on the social impact of TireCycle technology, "TIRECYCLE® plants employ five times as many persons per ton of tire crumb as the typical low-tech 'chop and grind' operations."

"We use a unique technology to recycle old tires that does not require the use of landfills," said Michael Wells, president of Louisiana Elastomer. "Our plant process is totally green with no environmental emissions" (http://www.biz-capital.com/news_item.cfm?news_id=232)

Yet another business paving the way in tire recycling processes is Sekhar Research Innovations (SRI). SRI uses devulcanization to make new products out of old tires, "The time for painful and damaging compromises like considering the incineration of scrap tires as a renewable energy source or allowing it to be classified as environmentally sustainable is long past...We are for the first time looking at a situation where the next decade is going to see the end of pollution from scrap tires, the chemicals discharged into the environment will no longer be a given...So the next time someone tells you that...incineration or burning of scrap tires has to be considered, tell them they are misinformed. There are new technologies being rolled out as we speak that are going to re-draw the recycling landscape, moving from scrap management to producing value added environmentally sustainable industrial raw materials" (<http://srielastomers.com/>).

The More Information, the Better...

C.A.R.E is made up of volunteers that care about the health and safety of their community. They aim to shine light on some of the issues facing the community, such as the proposed tire incinerator. Evidence shows that CRE's plan to burn 900 tons of tires a day will have real, serious negative impacts on the environment and thus, area residents. C.A.R.E encourages every citizen of Crawford County and the surrounding area

to educate themselves on all the aspects regarding the proposed incinerator.

Some concerns include: validity of developer (CRE); raw material supply; effects of toxic emissions on area hunters, anglers, farmers and Geneva Swamp (Conneaut Marsh); effects on water supply; fire hazards; effects on economy and real estate values...etc

★ For more information, check out C.A.R.E's Resources page on the website: www.stopburningtires.com