

incinerator to evaluate the effectiveness of lead capture by limestone during fluidized bed incineration of lead contaminated solid wastes. Experimental parameters include air flow rate, limestone size, waste-to-limestone ratio and incineration temperature. An atomic absorption analyzer is used to determine lead concentrations in both the original and the incinerated limestone. The results have indicated that limestone is capable of capturing lead during fluidized bed incineration. Small particle size, high turbulence and low temperature favor lead absorption.

THE NOT-IN-MY-BACKYARD SYNDROME: A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR ASSESSING PUBLIC RESISTANCE

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Abstract

While there has been considerable attention and funding given to engineering-based siting criteria and mechanisms for implementation, technological advances have little value if public resistance to site location precludes the successful location of treatment facilities. Industry analysts now recognize that some of the most difficult obstacles to solving the hazardous waste dilemma are social and psychological rather than technical. Siting efforts are continually met with adamant local resistance, a phenomenon that has come to be known as the "Not-In-My-Backyard" (NIMBY) Syndrome. A research proposal has been made to 1) determine primary sources of public apprehension, 2) identify and delineate real and imagined fears, and 3) verify parameters or conditions of public acceptance in a community wherein a site location has been formally proposed or is under consideration. Under a grant from the GCHSRC, research instruments targeting two populations have been developed. Recognizing the sociological axiom that community power is stratified, the study targets both public opinion and local elites. The first instrument is a survey questionnaire designed for use in an opinion poll and will draw from a scientific, random sample of adult residents in the selected city or community. The second is an interview schedule constructed for in-depth interviews with community leaders and city officials. The research design and survey instruments are fully developed and are awaiting funding sources in order to be implemented.
