

FACSIMILE



TO : Mr Stuart Macaskill
From : Bernie Knowles and Ken Harris
Regarding : Medical Waste Limited
Date : Friday, 8 October 1999

Attachment 2 to Report 99.618
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Dear Stuart

Thank you for **taking** the time **talk with us yesterday**. As you are aware **CentrePort** are 50% owners of Medical Waste Limited, a company that is currently the subject of some community interest.

We have forwarded to your **officers** a report on some of the key **issues** and **summarise** as follows.

Medical Waste Limited is based on the port's land at **Miramar** and operates a high temperature incinerator. This incinerator burns **quarantine waste** from the port and the airport, paper from **government and business**, and **medical waste** from the hospitals as well as other **products** such as tobacco. Its use is an **important part** of the protection of our environment. Its use in **other** roles assists in maintaining the **efficiency** of the plant, ie it goes better/burns **cleaner** with more product.

The incinerator **is** being criticised on the grounds that it discharges **Dioxin** into the air. We are advised that **combustion** does generate these chemicals and the incinerator is no exception. Apparently this **is** also true with common **uses** of equipment such as motor cars and barbecues.

The **incinerator** is tested **regularly** and where the **problem** appears to have started **was** from **one** rogue result. Even this result was low, however it was 8 times higher than usual, It could have been a problem on the day or with the **test**. Recent improvements in the way the plant **works** have made **sure** that it is doubly safe. The discharge of **dioxin** from the plant does not present a public health risk.

The **public perception** of having **this plant** is **however unlikely** to ever be **favourable**, simply **because** of what it does and where it is. **Medical Waste Limited** are committed to **moving the installation** as **soon** as possible and when this is done may use a **new** approach by **adopting** a process called rotary autoclaving. It is anticipated that the current **plant** has less than two **more years life**.

Rotary **autoclaving** is used in the United **States** and a unit **is** shortly to be installed **in** Auckland by an associated company. Study of these sites will give **Medical Waste Limited** the opportunity to look closely at the benefits of **the** new system and if appropriate adopt the same.

As advised we would be happy to discuss the concerns of **any** of the groups that have an interest in this matter.

Regards

B Knowles
K Harris