



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER  
DIRECTOR

January 24, 2005

Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for commenting on the permit application submitted by Michigan Waste Services, LLC (MWS), to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), requesting reclassification of an existing medical waste incinerator to a co-fired combustor. The equipment is located at 3900 Christopher Avenue, Hamtramck, Michigan.

After careful consideration of the issues and pursuant to the delegation of authority from the Director of the MDEQ, I have denied Permit to Install Application No. 300-03. This decision was reached after careful consideration of the permit application, comments received during the public comment period and hearing, the company's submittals during this comment period, and the company's past performance at this site. The company's submittals during the comment period did not demonstrate a commitment to comply with the conditions in the draft permit. My decision to deny the permit application is also based on the company's continued failure to comply with both permit No. 973-91A and Consent Order 41-1999 related to the existing incinerator at this site.

Many residents expressed concerns about air pollution in the area due to various sources, including MWS. Coupled with that, there is a perception by the public that there may be high rates of cancer, asthma, and possibly other illnesses in the community. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has agreed to evaluate the available health statistics in the area. This will include asthma, birth defects, and cancer. The MDCH estimates that this assessment will be completed in approximately two months, at which time the results will be made available.

Thank you for your input to our review of this permit application. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mary Charley, Air Quality Division, at 517-373-7080, or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

G. Vinson Hellwig, Chief  
Air Quality Division  
517-373-7069

cc: Mr. Frank Acevedo, U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency, Region V  
Mr. Norman Aardema, President, MWS  
Ms. Christina Rose Bush, MDCH  
Ms. Lynn Fiedler, MDEQ  
Ms. Teresa Seidel, MDEQ  
Ms. Rochelle Inglis, MDEQ  
Mr. Robert Sills, MDEQ  
Ms. Mary Charley, MDEQ