



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 14 2003

Maria Zannes, President
Integrated Waste Services Association
1401 H Street N.W., Suite 220
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Zannes:

EPA recognizes the vital role of the nation's municipal waste-to-energy industry, and wishes to thank you for your environmental efforts.

Upgrading of the emission control systems of large combustors to exceed the requirements of the Clean Air Act Section 129 standards is an impressive accomplishment. The completion of retrofits of the large combustion units enables us to continue to rely on municipal solid waste as a clean, reliable, renewable source of energy. With the capacity to handle approximately 15 percent of the waste generated in the US, these plants produce 2800 megawatts of electricity with less environmental impact than almost any other source of electricity. With fewer and fewer new landfills being opened, and capacity controls being imposed on many existing landfills, our communities greatly benefit from the dependable, sustainable capacity of municipal waste-to-energy plants.

We applaud the leadership taken by the Integrated Waste Services Association in coordinating research needs to continue to improve the performance of these plants. Your willingness to work with EPA and the State governments on responses to natural or man-made emergencies, including anthrax, is greatly appreciated. Our staff in the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response and the Office of Air and Radiation look forward to working with you on defining your research agenda and in addressing our national security concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Marianne Lamont Horinko.

Marianne Lamont Horinko
Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and
Emergency Response

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey R. Holmstead.

Jeffrey R. Holmstead
Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation

