


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Ihuoma Emenuga, Acting Commissioner	Health Department AGENCY REPORT	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202		
	Subject/ Position	23-0201R – Informational Hearing – Medical Waste Incinerators FAVORABLE		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

March 20, 2024

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to review Council Bill 23-0201R, entitled “Informational Hearing – Medical Waste Incinerators.” This resolution requests that representatives from BCHD, DPW, and local hospitals come before the council to discuss medical waste incinerators. Specifically, the resolution identifies the following questions:

- Which local hospitals send waste to medical incinerators in Baltimore City and which local hospitals do not;
- What, if any, oversight mechanisms these hospitals have in place over their hazardous waste disposal service contracts;
- The sustainability and environmental justice commitments local hospitals have made and how those commitments may conflict with service contracts the hospitals have with medical waste incineration companies that have long histories of environmental violations;
- What hospitals intend to do in the immediate future to mitigate the negative effects of their medical waste disposal on Baltimore’s communities.

Although BCHD is not privy to the answers to the above questions, we are happy to support the discussion. Regulation and oversight of incinerators – including incinerators that accept medical waste – falls under the purview of the State (as are most environmental issues). “Medical waste” (or “special medical waste”) is defined by Maryland Department of Health (MDH) regulations, [Code of Maryland Regulations 10.06.06](#), as well as the requirements for the handling, treatment, and disposal of special medical waste. Enforcement of these requirements rests with the State – specifically, with MDH and the Maryland Department of the Environment.

With consideration for Baltimore City residents who are interested in medical waste incineration requirements, regulations, and practices, BCHD supports holding a discussion on this topic.