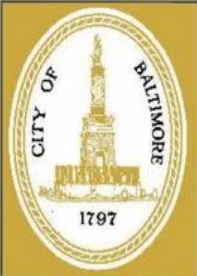


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Richard J. Luna, Interim Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Resolution 23-0201R		

February 20, 2024

TO:

Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 23-0201R introduced by Council Members Porter and Bullock.

The purpose of the Resolution is to invite representatives from the Departments of Public Works, the Baltimore City Health Department, and Baltimore City hospitals and institutions that make use of medical waste incinerators in Baltimore City. The intent of the informational hearing is to determine which local hospitals send waste to Baltimore City medical waste incinerators, what oversight mechanisms these hospitals have in place over their disposal service contracts, how these hospitals' sustainability and environmental justice commitments may conflict with waste disposal contracts with medical waste incineration companies having long-standing environmental violations, and what these hospitals intend to do in the immediate future to mitigate the effects of medical waste disposal on impacted Baltimore communities.

While the Department of Public Works is not privy to hospitals' private contracts with special medical waste transporters and disposal facilities, the following information is offered to the Committee in the hopes of facilitating its discussions.

There is a distinction made between special medical waste and hazardous waste. Hazardous waste is regulated by the U.S. EPA and state regulations under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Special medical waste is the portion of the medical waste stream contaminated by blood, bodily fluids, or with potentially infectious materials that could pose a risk of transmitting infections. Medical waste is not covered by federal environmental laws, nor is it regulated by the EPA. Except for OSHA standards and NIH guidelines for the handling of special medical waste, medical waste is mostly controlled by state laws and regulations.

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In Maryland, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has regulations that define special medical waste and the criteria for evaluating what treatment methods are required for safe disposal (COMAR 10.06.06). The Maryland Department of the Environment issues special medical waste generator ID numbers and certifications of special medical waste haulers and regulates the transporting of medical waste (COMAR 26.13.11 - 26.13.13). Depending on the type of special medical waste, treatment is required before disposal either by autoclaving, chemical disinfection, cremation, disinfection, mechanical destruction after decontamination, or other alternative methods that meet the regulations criteria.

Baltimore City's recently adopted Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan (2024-2033) estimates that approximately 5,700 tons of medical waste is generated within the City. The Plan lists the following medical waste facilities located within the city's borders:

- Triumvirate Environmental Medical Waste Transfer Station (2300 Sun Street), a privately owned environmental and medical waste acceptance facility;
- Stericycle, Inc. (5901 Chemical Road), a privately owned facility that accepts chemotherapeutic, pharmaceutical, and pathological waste that is shipped to its facility in Haw River, North Carolina, where it is incinerated;
- Daniels Sharpsmart (6611 Chandlery Street), a private facility that accepts medical waste; and
- Curtis Bay Energy Facility (3200 Hawkins Point Road), AKA Curtis Bay Medical Waste Services, a privately owned medical waste incinerator (with energy recovery), with the resulting ash shipped out-of-state for landfill disposal.

The City's Quarantine Road Landfill does not accept medical waste.

The Department of Public Works supports the intent of City Council Resolution 23-0201R for information gathering on this important topic. Representatives of the Department will attend the Committee hearing.



Richard J. Luna
Interim Director

RJL/MMC