AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - HIGH-HEAT WASTE FACILITY ACT OF 2021

Introduced By: Senators Valverde, Euer, DiMario, Miller, Anderson, Raptakis, Burke, Gallo, Kallman, and Cano
Date Introduced: March 04, 2021
Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

CHAPTER 19.17
HIGH-HEAT WASTE FACILITY ACT OF 2021

23-19.17-1. Findings/Purpose.

(1) As stated in §§ 23-19-3(14) and (16), solid waste incineration releases more than four hundred (400) toxic pollutants including lead, mercury, dioxins, and acid gasses; poses unacceptable threats to the health and safety of Rhode Islanders and the environment; and is the most costly method of waste disposal;

(2) Other forms of high-heat waste processing including, but not limited to, gasification, pyrolysis, plasma-arc, and chemical recycling, emit the same pollutants and pose the same unacceptable threats to health, safety, and the environment as solid waste incineration, and are likewise costly and unproven methods of waste disposal;

(3) Emissions from solid waste incineration and other high-heat waste processing facilities and emissions from the combustion of fuels generated through gasification and pyrolysis contribute to climate change;

(4) Energy derived from the combustion of solid waste, and from the combustion of fuels derived from solid waste, is not renewable energy;

(5) To address the waste and plastic pollution that endanger health, safety, and the
environment, Rhode Island must work to reduce, divert, reuse, and recycle rather than burn waste;

(6) Solid waste incinerators and other high-heat waste processing facilities in the United States are disproportionately located in communities of color and low-income communities, and Rhode Island is committed to preventing the inequitable environmental burdens that come with the construction and operation of such facilities;

(7) It is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of residents of and visitors to Rhode Island to protect our communities, environment, and natural resources by prohibiting the construction and operation of solid waste incinerators and other high-heat waste processing facilities.


As used in this chapter:

(1) Construction and demolition (C&D) debris” means non-hazardous solid waste resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of utilities and structures and uncontaminated solid waste resulting from land clearing. This waste includes, but is not limited to, wood (including painted, treated, and coated wood, and wood products); land-clearing debris; wall coverings; plaster; drywall; plumbing fixtures; non-asbestos insulation; roofing shingles and other roof coverings; glass; plastics that are not sealed in a manner that conceals other wastes, empty buckets ten (10) gallons or less in size and having no more than one inch of residue remaining on the bottom; electrical wiring and components containing no hazardous liquids; and pipe and metals that are incidental to any of the previously described waste. Solid waste that is not C&D debris (even if resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of utilities, structures and roads; land clearing) includes, but is not limited to, asbestos; waste; garbage; corrugated container board; electrical fixtures containing hazardous liquids, such as fluorescent light ballasts or transformers; fluorescent lights; carpeting; furniture; appliances; tires; drums; containers greater than ten (10) gallons in size; any containers having more than one inch of residue remaining on the bottom; and fuel tanks. Specifically excluded from the definition of construction and demolition debris is solid waste (including what otherwise would be construction and demolition debris) resulting from any processing technique, other than that employed at a department-approved C&D debris processing facility, that renders individual waste components unrecognizable, such as pulverizing or shredding.

(2) “Gasification” means a process through which materials are subjected to heat (generally at, but not limited to, temperatures above nine hundred degrees Fahrenheit (900°F)) in a limited-oxygen environment, converting carbon-based materials to synthetic fuels, chemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricants, or other substances and solid residues, slag, ash, char, liquid wastes, and/or
wastewater.

(3) "Hazardous waste" means any waste or combination of wastes of a solid, liquid, contained gaseous, or semisolid form which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may:

(i) Cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness; or

(ii) Pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment.

(A) These wastes include, but are not limited to, those which are toxic, corrosive, flammable, irritants, strong sensitizers, substances which are assimilated or concentrated in and are detrimental to tissue, or which generate pressure through decomposition or chemical reaction. In addition, these wastes include "industrial waste" as the term is used elsewhere, unless the context shall clearly indicate otherwise.

(4) "High-heat waste processing facility" means a facility which:

(i) Generates electricity from the combustion, gasification, or pyrolysis of solid waste, segregated solid waste, recyclable materials, construction and demolition (C&D) debris, hazardous waste, or regulated medical waste;

(ii) Generates electricity from the combustion of fuel derived from the gasification or pyrolysis of solid waste, segregated solid waste, recyclable materials, construction and demolition (C&D) debris, hazardous waste, or regulated medical waste; or

(ii) Disposes of, processes, or treats solid waste, segregated solid waste, recyclable materials, construction and demolition (C&D) debris, hazardous waste, or regulated medical waste through combustion, gasification, pyrolysis, or any process that exposes waste to temperatures above four hundred degrees Fahrenheit (400°F).

(5)(i) "Regulated medical waste" means a special category of solid waste that includes specific types of medical waste subject to the handling and tracking requirements. Regulated medical wastes mixed with nonhazardous solid wastes are considered regulated medical wastes for the purposes of this chapter.

(ii) A regulated medical waste is any waste generated in the diagnosis (including testing and laboratory analysis), treatment, (e.g., provision of medical services), or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the preparation of human remains for burial or cremation, or in the production or testing of biologicals, or in the development of pharmaceuticals, that is listed in this section but is not excluded or exempted in § 23-19.12-3(7)(iv).

Regulated medical waste becomes subject to the regulations in this chapter at the time and in the location that the materials become waste.
(iii) The following categories of medical wastes are regulated medical waste:

(A) Cultures and stocks. Cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including: cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories; wastes from the production of biologicals; discarded live and attenuated vaccines; and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures.

(B) Pathological wastes. Human pathological wastes, including tissues, organs, and body parts that are removed during surgery or autopsy, or other medical procedures.

(C) Human blood, blood products and body fluids:

(I) Liquid waste human blood or body fluids:

(II) Products of blood:

(III) Items saturated and/or dripping with human blood:

(IV) Items that were saturated and/or dripping with human blood that are caked with dried human blood; including, but not limited to, serum, plasma, and other blood components and their containers; or

(V) Specimens of body fluids and their containers.

(D) Sharps. Sharps that have been used in animal or human patient care or treatment (including sharps generated from the preparation of human and animal remains for burial or cremation), or in medical, research, or industrial laboratories, including, but not limited to, hypodermic needles, syringes (with or without the attached needle), pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, blood vials, needles with attached tubing, glass carpules, and glass culture dishes (regardless of presence of infectious agents). Also included are other types of broken or unbroken glassware that has been used in animal or human patient care or treatment, such as used slides and cover slips.

(E) Animal waste. Contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding of animals that were known to have been exposed to infectious agents during research, (including research in veterinary hospitals), production of biologicals, or testing of pharmaceuticals.

(F) Isolation wastes. Biological waste and discarded materials contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates, or secretions from humans who are isolated to protect others from certain highly communicable diseases, or isolated animals known to be infected with highly communicable diseases. These diseases include:

INFECTIOUS AGENT DISEASE

Variola minor Alastrim

Variola major Smallpox

Monkey pox Human Monkeypox
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Disease Name</th>
<th>Etiology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>White pox</td>
<td>Crimean hemorrhagic fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Junin virus</td>
<td>Argentine hemorrhagic fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Machupo virus</td>
<td>Bolivian hemorrhagic fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Herpes virus simiae (Monkey B)</td>
<td>Oncogenic in primates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lassa virus</td>
<td>Lassa fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Marburg virus</td>
<td>Marburg virus disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Russian spring-summer</td>
<td>Russian spring-summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus</td>
<td>Venezuelan equine encephalitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kyasanur forest disease virus</td>
<td>Kyasanur forest disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Omsk hemorrhagic fever virus</td>
<td>Omsk hemorrhagic fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Central European encephalitis virus</td>
<td>Central European encephalitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus</td>
<td>Venezuelan equine encephalitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Yellow fever virus</td>
<td>Yellow fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ebola virus</td>
<td>Ebola virus disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Absettarov virus</td>
<td>Tick-borne encephalitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Hanzalova virus</td>
<td>Tick-borne encephalitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Kumlinge virus</td>
<td>Tick-borne encephalitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (G) Any other diseases identified as</td>
<td>Biosafety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Level 4 etiologic agents by the Center for Disease Control.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>(H) The following diseases are included in the list of “highly</td>
<td>communicable diseases”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>associated with animals. Unless otherwise noted by an asterisk, these</td>
<td>diseases are part of the National Notifiable Disease Surveillances System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>diseases are part of the National Notifiable Disease Surveillances System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Anthrax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Botulism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Brucellosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Eastern Equine Encephalitis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Leptospirosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Lyme Disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Plague</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Psittacosis (Chlamydiosis)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Rabies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Salmonellosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Trichinosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tuberculosis

Tularemia

*Cat-Scratch Fever Disease

*Ebola Virus

*Ehrlichia canis

*Encephalomyocarditis

*Monkey B-Virus

*Monkey Marburg Virus

*Poxvirus

*“Q” Fever

*Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

*Vesicular Stomatitis

(I) Unused sharps. Unused discarded sharps, including hypodermic needles, suture needles, syringes, and scalpel blades.

(J) Spill/cleanup material. Any material collected during or resulting from the cleanup of a spill of regulated medical waste.

(K) Mixtures. Any waste which is a mixture of regulated medical waste and some other type of waste which is neither radioactive nor a hazardous waste of a type other than regulated medical waste.

(iv) Exclusions and exemptions. The following categories of medical waste are specifically excluded from the definition of regulated medical waste:

(A) Hazardous waste identified or listed under DEM hazardous waste regulations promulgated under § 23-19.1-6. Regulated medical waste that is mixed with hazardous waste shall be defined as hazardous waste and shall be regulated in accordance with DEM hazardous waste regulations.

(B) Household medical waste, limited to medical waste generated by individuals on the premises of a single-family home or single-family dwelling unit or by members of households residing in single and multiple residences, hotels, and motels which serve as a residence for individuals, provided the dwelling is not serving as a commercial or professional office where individuals who are not members of the family residing at the dwelling are receiving medical care by a health care professional.

(C) This exemption includes the wastes generated by health care providers in private homes where medical services are provided to individuals who reside there.

(D) Medical waste generated and disposed of with residential solid wastes from a single
family residential premise or single-family dwelling unit shall be exempt from these regulations except where regulated medical waste is generated from commercial or professional offices.

(E) Incinerator ash and treatment/destruction residue. Regulated medical waste that has been both treated and destroyed is no longer regulated medical waste; this includes ash from the incineration of regulated medical waste (provided the ash meets the definition for treated regulated medical waste and destroyed regulated medical waste) and residues from wastes that have been both treated and destroyed (e.g., waste that has been subjected to decontamination and grinding, or chemical disinfection followed by grinding, or stream sterilization followed by shredding).

(F) Human remains, e.g., corpses and anatomical parts that are stored, transported, or otherwise managed for purposes of interment or cremation. However, regulated medical waste attached to, or within, a corpse is not exempt and must be removed and then managed as regulated medical waste.

(G) Etiologic agents that are being transported intrastate and/or interstate between facilities pursuant to regulations set by the U.S. department of transportation, the U.S. department of health and human services, and all other applicable shipping requirements.

(H) Enforcement samples, including samples of regulated medical waste obtained during enforcement procedures by authorized U.S. environmental protection agency personnel and the state of Rhode Island.

(6) “Pyrolysis” means a process through which materials are subjected to heat (generally at, but not limited to, temperatures above four hundred degrees Fahrenheit (400°F) in the absence of oxygen, converting carbon-based materials to synthetic fuels, chemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricants, or other substances and solid residues, slag, ash, char, liquid wastes, and/or wastewater.

(7) “Recyclable materials” means those materials separated from solid waste for reuse. The director of the department of environmental management, through regulations, shall specify those materials that are to be included within the definition of recyclables. The materials to be included may change from time to time depending upon new technologies, economic conditions, waste stream characteristics, environmental effects, or other factors.

(8) “Segregated solid waste” means material separated from other solid waste for reuse.

(9) “Solid waste” means garbage, refuse, tree waste as defined in § 23-18.9-7(14), and other discarded solid materials generated by residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, and agricultural sources, but does not include solids or dissolved material in domestic sewage or sewage sludge or dredge material as defined in chapter 6.1 of title 46, nor does it include hazardous waste as defined in chapter 19.1 of title 23, nor does it include used asphalt, concrete, or Portland concrete cement.

Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, no permit or license shall be issued for the construction or operation of a new high-heat waste processing facility, and no application for a permit or license for such a facility shall be granted or issued by the state.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY- HIGH-HEAT WASTE FACILITY ACT OF 2021

***

1  This act would prohibit new high-heat waste processing facilities.

2  This act would take effect upon passage.

=========
LC002363
=========