

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NH/VT SOLID WASTE PROJECT
AND AN ANALYSIS OF
SOME CENTRALIZED RECYCLING ALTERNATIVES USING THE
WAS COMPUTER SIMULATION

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Bachelor of Arts
in Environmental Studies at Brown University

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May 1986

Statement of the Problem

The NH/VT Solid Waste District is the manifestation of an idea that was conceived of over twenty years ago. During the mid 1970's, State of New Hampshire passed a law which divided the counties into solid waste districts. Under the law, each town included in these districts was to find a solution to its solid waste problem as part of the district, or independently, as it chose, but it must have a detailed plan for disposing of its solid waste included as part of its "master plan". Sullivan County chose to go ahead with the idea of building a solid waste incinerator, which would generate steam and electricity as by-products of incineration. The steam was to be utilized by one or more of the faltering industries in the Newport/Claremont area, providing a means of reviving the flagging economy of this area strewn with factories and industries, some very much in need of a technological infusion such as cogeneration. A pilot engineering study was completed, assessing the sources of waste, the accessibility of interested factories, and detailing plans for size and location of the incinerator.

As the Project took on dimension, other studies were performed on the roads: trucking mileages, condition, etc. Interested towns were weeded from uninterested ones, and the amount of electricity and steam generation was estimated in rough figures. Interstate Bonds were issued after a law was passed in congress allowing the transference of money between New Hampshire and Vermont.

Construction began in the summer of 1985. The incinerator should start-up in June of 1987. By then all participating towns and cities are to be ready with their transfer stations where their trash will be collected and transported to the Facility. They will also be ready to recycle some parts of their waste. Details of the recycling strategy for the NH/VT Solid Waste Project have yet to be worked out. In an effort to contribute to that end, I have written this analysis of the potential for a centralized recycling for the Project area.