

# 4 MORE YEARS OF BREATHING UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS IS 4 YEARS TOO MANY.



**It's in your backyard.** The BMWNC medical waste incinerator is located at 3250 Campus Ridge Road, in Matthews, North Carolina, approximately 1/3 mile from the Levine Campus, Central Piedmont Community College. The college is located downwind of the incinerator.

**Under its CURRENT permit the BMWNC medical waste incinerator generates over 23 tons of toxic and hazardous air pollutants per year.** Toxic contaminants released into the air from the BMWNC incinerator include:

- hydrogen chloride
- polychlorinated biphenyls
- hydrogen fluoride
- sulfur dioxide
- nitrogen oxide
- carbon monoxide
- particulate matter
- lead
- chromium
- cadmium
- beryllium
- arsenic
- mercury vapors
- dioxins and furans

**Health effects** from exposure to these toxic air pollutants range from skin rashes, coughs and sore throats to more serious illnesses that include cancer, increased asthmatic symptoms, respiratory illnesses, kidney and liver damage, learning disabilities, pulmonary emphysema, neuromuscular problems, immune disorders, bone disease, and endocrine, reproductive and developmental effects, among others.

The EPA just issued NEW RULES that set stricter standards for these chemicals released by medical waste incinerators. Existing incinerators like the BMWNC must comply with the EPA's NEW RULES no later than October, 6, 2014, but the Mecklenburg County Air Quality has the authority to instigate the new EPA rules immediately. However, the County is proposing that the permit renewal for the BMWNC reflect the standards under old rules, not the new rules!

**Residents of Mecklenburg and Union Counties, and students, teachers and staff at CPCC will continue to be exposed to toxic air pollutants now considered unacceptable by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) if action is not taken.**

Write to the Mecklenburg County Air Quality and request that a public hearing be held to allow residents who live close to the incinerator, and students and staff at the Levine Campus, Piedmont Community College, an opportunity to comment on the County's plan to issue a permit to the BMWNC medical waste incinerator to control toxic air emissions from BMWNC under the old rules.

**The deadline to request a public hearing is December 14, 2009.**

Send your letter requesting that a public hearing be held on the BMWNC permit renewal to:

Don R. Willard, Director  
Mecklenburg County Department Air Quality  
700 N. Tryon St., Suite 205  
Charlotte, NC 28202-2236

\*Comments may also be submitted via e-mail at the following address:  
Don.Willard@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

\*For a copy of the Public Notice, BMWNC DRAFT permit review and application, contact Shannon George, MCAQ, at: [Shannon.george@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Shannon.george@mecklenburgcountync.gov) or (704) 336-5430.\*For a copy of the EPA's Final Rule on medical waste incinerators see: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/129/hmiwi/rihmiwi.html>

**For more information contact Judy Drake, Matthews, NC, resident at:  
(704) 821-4883**

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