



THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

GRADUATE SCHOOL, BALTIMORE

Office of the Vice Chancellor for  
Graduate Studies and Research  
Research Development and Support

Risk Management Program

June 1, 1987

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Rowan  
Director Facilities Management

FROM: Sandra H. Polakavetz *Sandra H. Polakavetz/KFK*  
Assistant Director Risk Management

RE: Pathological Waste Incinerator (Med. Tech. Building)  
Problem

On Thursday, May 28, 1987, at 12:05 P.M. our office received a complaint regarding smoke from the pathological waste incinerator entering the Medical Technology Building. Risk Management has had to respond for the same problem on many occasions. In fact, this was the second such occurrence this month.

In order to eliminate the hazard involved and these complaints, the following is recommended:

1. Seal all the windows on the 1st floor of MTB to prevent the smoke from coming into the building.
2. Seal all the cracks in the brick wall of the MTB, especially on the east side of the building.
3. Burn all waste after 5:30 P.M. when the building is unoccupied.

Please apprise me of any action which you plan to take to eliminate the above mentioned problem.

SHP/ma

cc: Dr. R. Adams Cowley  
Melvin Jones  
Keith Kelley  
Cecil Kelly  
John Murphy  
Andy Trahanis



THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

CAMPUS FOR THE PROFESSIONS  
Office of Facilities Management

Division of Operations and Maintenance

M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Sandra H. Polakavetz  
Assistant Director  
Risk Management

**FROM:** Cecil S. Kelly *Cecil S. Kelly*  
Acting Associate Director

**DATE:** June 8, 1987

**RE:** Incinerator Associated Problems - Medical Technology Bldg.

Reference is made to your memorandum to Bob Rowan, dated June 1, 1987, concerning the infiltration of smoke/odor into the Medical Technology Building from the pathological waste incinerator.

The windows of the 1st floor Medical Technology Building have been sealed, as well as all other openings at ground and below ground level in the proximity of the incinerator.

Consideration has been given to burning waste after normal working hours. However, such an arrangement is not considered to be in the best interest of the users of the incinerator. Also such a burning schedule would not provide any assurance of improper emission of smoke.

A concentrated effort has been instituted to closely monitor the type (and content) of waste delivered to the incinerator by various departments. Such effort will, hopefully, reduce or eliminate that waste which tends to generate problems (smoke) during the burning process.

CSK/ad  
cc: Melvin Jones  
Keith Kelly  
John Murphy  
Robert Rowan  
Andy Trahanis



STATE OF MARYLAND

HARRY HUGHES  
GOVERNOR

COMMISSIONER



JOHN J. CORBLEY  
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION  
DIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
501 ST. PAUL PLACE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202  
301/659-4195

NANCY B. BURKHEIMER  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

RAYMOND E. LLOYD  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
MOSH

June 7, 1983

Mr. Richard Grauel, Chief editor/writer  
Editorial Publications/MIEMSS  
University of Maryland at Baltimore  
22 South Greene Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

RE: Complaint #0088  
Case #G1898-027-83

Dear Mr. Grauel:

As a result of your formal complaint to this office on March 9, 1983, an inspection was conducted at the University of Maryland @ Baltimore (MIEMSS), 22 South Greene Street, Baltimore, Maryland by our Industrial Hygiene Unit on March 15, 1983.

An industrial hygiene inspection was conducted from March 15, 1983 until May 27, 1983. All sample results indicate extremely low levels of exposure to air contaminants. The incinerator was repaired during the course of the inspection and employee complaints have ceased. A letter of recommendations was sent to the Facilities Management Office of the University of Maryland @ Baltimore. A copy of this letter was also sent to George Atkinson, of your office. No apparent violation of MOSH standards was found during the course of this inspection.

We hope this will answer your complaint satisfactorily, and if there is any further assistance desired please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Sincerely,

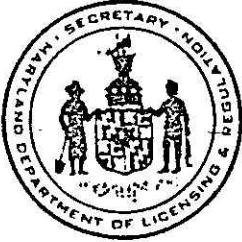
Kenneth G. Higdon  
Assistant Chief, MOSH Services

KGH/emb

STATE OF MARYLAND

HARRY HUGHES  
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COMMISSIONER



DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

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JOHN J. CORBLEY  
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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
MOSH

June 7, 1983

Ms. Beverly Sopp, Chief  
Editorial/Publications  
University of Maryland at Baltimore  
22 South Greene Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

RE: Complaint #0088  
Case #G1898-027-83

Dear Ms. Sopp:

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Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Higdon  
Assistant Chief, MOSH Services

KGH/emb



# OSHA official refuses to issue emergency rules on chemicals

Washington (AP) — The official responsible for protecting workers from hazardous substances has effectively ruled out emergency action on dangerous chemicals because he says it would take too much time from other agency activity.

Nevertheless, Thorne G. Auchter, assistant labor secretary in charge of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, says he will not seek more personnel to make the issuing of emergency standards more feasible.

"The resources aren't there. The government's going busted," said Mr. Auchter in an interview with the Associated Press.

Congressional Democrats and labor officials have criticized Mr. Auchter's past refusals to issue so-called "emergency temporary standards" for chemicals that scientists believe present serious health hazards to workers.

"If he's telling us that he knows — based on his scientists' advice — that workers are going to die ... and yet he is not moving because OSHA doesn't have enough money and then he stays with his current budget, that's outrageous," said Representative David Obey (D, Wis.).

At a congressional hearing last month, Mr. Obey accused Mr. Auchter of having the same kind of anti-regulatory attitude and cozy relation-

ship with industry that sparked the controversy at the Environmental Protection Agency and criticized him for not having issued a single new permanent standard for regulating toxic chemicals during his two years at OSHA.

Since taking office in 1981, Mr. Auchter has rejected labor petitions for emergency standards on ethylene oxide, ethylene dibromide and formaldehyde, three suspected cancer-causing chemicals.

Last week, he received a new labor petition seeking a temporary standard on benzene, a chemical that has been shown to cause leukemia in humans.

While rejecting proposed emergency standards, Mr. Auchter has taken initial steps toward regular rule-making to tighten standards on ethylene oxide and ethylene dibromide and has announced similar plans for benzene.

He estimates, however, that rule-making through normal procedures will take about 2½ years.

In the interview, Mr. Auchter said that while he agreed that ethylene oxide, a sterilizing agent used by about 100,000 hospital workers, was a dangerous chemical, he preferred following the regular — though admittedly time-consuming — rule-making process.

"What happens when we issue an emergency temporary standard?" he said. "We've got six months to come out with a permanent rule. Virtually all of our other standard activity stops ..."

But he acknowledged: "If I had more people, I could do more."

Mr. Auchter also maintained that issuing an emergency temporary standard violates the Administrative Procedures Act and denies the public an opportunity for review of the proposal.

However, the 1970 law creating OSHA specifically waives the provisions of the act in mandating that emergency standards shall be implemented when it is determined that "employees are exposed to grave danger" from toxic substances.

Peg Seminario of the AFL-CIO said Mr. Auchter's refusal to grant emergency standards "ignores a congressional direction that the agency set a standard if there is a grave danger."

Mr. Auchter, however, says that other factors must also be weighed, including the prospects for defending an emergency standard if it is challenged by industry in court.

"We in the government have to make decisions that keep us as far as possible beyond litigation," he said.



# Desert polygamist says any of h

## POLYGAMY, from A1

professors as "a fine student." She has been married to the 47-year-old Mr. Joseph for nine years and has no children, although she is now considering becoming pregnant.

"We are not just polygamists. We are a whole alternate culture," Elizabeth explained.

"I would feel crowded in a monogamous life-style," said Boadicaa, whose Presbyterian parents in Mon-

tana called in the FBI to charge Mr. Joseph with kidnapping their daughter when she married him.

Boadicaa, a strikingly good-looking blue-eyed blonde, added, "You couldn't keep up with Alex by yourself anyway. He needs a troop."

He has a troop. The official Joseph family numbers about 26, including 17 children, 6 of them informally adopted, living in an imaginatively designed compound of rocks and mortar built by group members on the edge of the shanty town of Glen Canyon on the Arizona-Utah border.

There also are Joseph followers who live near the compound, which is called "Long Haul," who work with him on construction and in his myriad business enterprises that have ranged

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R ADAMS COWLEY, M.D., DIRECTOR

April 8, 1983

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Bill Clark  
From: Andy Trohanis *AT*  
Re: Incinerator Burnings.

On Monday morning, April 4, we experienced another crematorium/incinerator burning which again produced an undesirable and obnoxious odor. At that time, we contacted Sandra Palakavetz, director of Risk Management, and Richard Newman, Maintenance Supervisor to assess the problem. They confirmed it was an undesirable odor and would look into the situation. Again on Thursday morning, April 7, we experienced the same situation. Mr. Newman and Ms. Palakavetz were present and agreed the odor was distasteful and created a potential hazardous working condition. They will explore the feasibility of alternative burning times and inspecting the equipment.

AT:bjja

cc: Beverly Sopp





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R ADAMS COWLEY, M.D., DIRECTOR

February 17, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: Beverly Sopp *wa*  
FROM: William E. Clark, Director of Administration  
SUBJECT: Airbourne particulate matter generated by the  
crematorium/incinerator

It has been brought to my attention that certain portions of the Med-Tech Building are being rendered untenable during brief periods on Mondays and Thursdays. My walk through your area this morning at 10 a.m. fully confirms the fact that you and your staff cannot work in your assigned area during such periods.

I have talked with an incinerator operator who advised that the smoke condition is generally due to the paper bags being burned. In his opinion, the odor generated by the burning human and animal parts along with the formaldehyde can never be eliminated with the present system. However, it appears that the majority of airborne problems occur within the first few hours of burning. Therefore, it appears that Monday and Thursday mornings between 9 a.m. and noon will continue to be a problem.

Another concern to me is the possible adverse health effects of breathing this airborne particulate matter, which in some cases includes the byproducts of incinerated cancerous materials.

Please prepare a proposal for my review on alternatives available to us for relocating your staff during Monday and Thursday mornings when the operation of the incinerator renders your workspace untenable.

WEC/doe

CC: R Adams Cowley, M.D.  
Andy Trohanis  
George Atkinson



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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Communications  
Transportation  
Administration  
Evaluation

R ADAMS COWLEY, M.D., DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Clark  
FROM: Beverly Sopp *bys*  
DATE: February 17, 1983  
RE: Problems resulting from the burning of research and  
autopsy specimens in back of Med-Tech Building

Every Thursday and sometimes on Mondays, research and autopsy specimens from University of Md. Medical Complex and also from other hospitals in the city are burned in the incinerator in back of the Med-Tech Building. The incinerator is directly below Rooms 215 and 216, the offices of the editorial/publications staff. The stench is intolerable, and no one can work in the offices.

We have complained to the Physical Plant for three years (we had the same problem when we had Rooms 122A and 122C on the first floor). The explanation that our staff, as well as Tony Zipp and George Atkinson received, was that the stench is caused by several factors: overloading; the temperature being too low; excessive humidity in the air and/or the specimens themselves being wet. This explanation is fine -- but it doesn't help our problem. Because of the stench, the offices are not inhabitable during the burning. We are also concerned that the burning is a health hazard, since the material being disposed of is often cancerous.

I appreciate your investigating the problem today and I hope you will be able to work out a solution with the University.



In the meantime, I don't think we can continue to work in those offices. Since the burning is scheduled for Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., I am requesting your approval to let the publications staff work at home during the morning (8:30 a.m. - noon). They would report to MIEMSS at 1 p.m. This would apply to full-time staff, Dick Grauel and myself, and also to one part-time person Rochelle Cohen. Our secretary Sharon Coleman would make up the 3.5 hours by working longer hours during the week. I will take responsibility for monitoring the work. I will also try to have Elaine Rice who works on Mondays rearrange her schedule since she is part-time. This is not an ideal solution but hopefully the problem will be worked out and we will have a normal working environment.

Please let me know if this "proposal" meets with your approval.

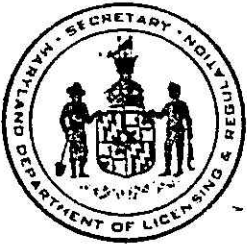
BS:sac

cc: Andy Trohanis

STATE OF MARYLAND

HARRY HUGHES  
GOVERNOR

HARVEY A. EPSTEIN  
COMMISSIONER



JOHN J. CORBLEY  
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION  
DIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
501 ST. PAUL PLACE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-2272  
301/659-4195

NANCY B. BURKHEIMER  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

RAYMOND E. LLOYD  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
MOSH

March 9, 1983

Ms. Elaine Rice  
Editor/Publisher, Editorial/Publications  
University of Maryland at Baltimore  
22 South Greene Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

RE: Complaint #0089

Dear Ms. Rice:

This is to verify that we are now in receipt of your formal complaint against the University of Maryland at Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland. This complaint is now being processed through our Industrial Hygiene Unit, Baltimore and will be completed as soon as possible.

We will notify you of the results of our investigation upon its completion. If the company is cited for any violations of our standards, you will receive a copy of the citation.

If we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

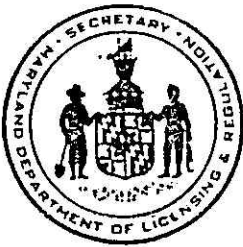
Cheryl Kammerman  
Operations

CK/emb

HARRY HUGHES  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND

HARVEY A. EPSTEIN  
COMMISSIONER



JOHN J. CORBLEY  
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION  
DIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
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501 ST. PAUL PLACE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-2272  
301/659-4195

NANCY B. BURKHEIMER  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

RAYMOND E. LLOYD  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
MOSH

March 9, 1983

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Editorial/Publications  
University of Maryland at Baltimore  
22 South Greene Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Kammerman  
Operations

CK/emb

STATE OF MARYLAND

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JOHN J. CORBLEY  
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MOSH

March 9, 1983

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Editorial Publications/MIEMSS  
University of Maryland at Baltimore  
22 South Greene Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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CK/emb

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DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION  
DIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
501 ST. PAUL PLACE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

COMPLAINT

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY		
AREA	DATE RECEIVED	TIME
REGION	RECEIVED BY	LOG NO.

FORM: DLR/DLI/#12-08-MOSH-7/10-82/2M/83-258

This form is provided for the assistance of any complainant and is not intended to constitute the exclusive means by which a complaint may be registered with the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

The undersigned (*check one*)

☒ Employee ☐ Representative of employees ☐ Other (*specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

believes that a violation at the following place of employment of an occupational safety or health standard exists which is a job safety or health hazard.

Does this hazard(s) immediately threaten death or serious physical harm? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Employer's Name University of Maryland at Baltimore  
Address Street 22 South Greene Street Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City Baltimore State Maryland Zip Code 21201

1. Kind of business Hospital and Professional Schools
2. Specify the particular building or worksite where the alleged violation is located, including address. Incinerator behind the Med-Tech Building, 31 S. Greene St.
3. Specify the name and phone number of employer's agent(s) in charge.  
Facilities Management, Redwood Hall 528-5000 (Cecil Kelly)
4. Describe briefly the hazard which exists there including the approximate number of employees exposed to or threatened by such hazard.  
Every Thursday and sometimes on Mondays, research and autopsy specimens from  
University of Md. Medical Complex and also from other hospitals in the city are  
burned in the incinerator behind the Med-Tech Building and directly below our offices. (Cont)  
(CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY)

Sec. 35(c) of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973, provides as follows: Any employee or representative of employees who in good faith believes that a violation of a safety or health standard promulgated under this subtitle exists that threatens physical harm to employees or that imminent danger to such employees exists, may request an inspection of said place of employment by giving notice to the Commissioner or his authorized representative of such violation or danger. Any such notice shall be in writing, shall set forth with reasonable particularity the grounds for the notice, and shall be signed by the employee or representative of employees, and a copy shall be provided the employer or his agent no later than at the time of inspection, except that, upon the request of the person giving such notice, his name and the names of individual employees referred to therein shall not appear in such copy or any record published, released, or made available pursuant to any provision of this subtitle. If upon receipt of such notification the Commissioner determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such violation or danger exists, he shall make a special investigation as soon as practicable, to determine if such violation or danger exists. If the Commissioner determines there are no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation or danger exists, he shall notify the employee or representative of the employees in writing of such determination.

(NOTICE: ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE)



5. List by number and/or name the particular standard (or standards) issued by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry which you claim have been violated, if known.

Not known

6. (a) To your knowledge has this violation been considered previously by any Federal, State, or local agency? \_\_\_\_\_

Not to my knowledge

- (b) If so, please state the name of the agency \_\_\_\_\_

- (c) and, the approximate date it was so considered. \_\_\_\_\_

7. (a) Is this complaint, or a complaint alleging a similar violation, being filed with any other Federal, State, or local agency? \_\_\_\_\_

No

- (b) If so, give the name and address of each agency. \_\_\_\_\_

8. (a) To your knowledge, has this violation been the subject of any union/management grievance or have you (or anyone you know) otherwise called it to the attention of, or discussed it with, the employer or any representative thereof? Yes

- (b) If so, please give the results thereof, including any efforts by management to correct the violation.

Over the past three years complaints have been registered on a regular basis with the Facilities Management Office. They have responded by saying the smoke is

caused by burning the paper bags and/or a malfunctioning part and the stench is (cont.)

9. Please indicate your desire

☒ I do not want my name revealed to the employer.

☐ My name may be revealed to the employer.

Signature Beverly Sopp Date 3/1/83

Typed or Printed Name Beverly Sopp, Chief, Editorial/Publications, MIEMSS

Address Street 22 S. Greene Street Telephone 528-3248  
City Baltimore State MD Zip Code 21201

If you are a representative of employees,  
state the name of your organization \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation Sheet

4. The stench is intolerable and no one can work in the offices. We are also concerned that the burning is a health hazard, since the human and animal material being disposed of is often cancerous. Ashes and grit on the desks are common as a result of the burning. On several occasions -- the last being February 28 -- the rooms backing up to the incinerator were filled with smoke. Five employees on the second floor (in offices behind the incinerator) are exposed whenever the burning occurs. There have been occasions, when the stench was evident throughout the entire building -- not only in the offices on the second floor.
  
8. caused by overloading; the temperature being too low; excessive humidity in the air and/or the specimens themselves being wet. In short, they have said we have to live with the stench, despite the fact that the offices are inhabitable during that time. --

HARVEY A. EPSTEIN  
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION  
DIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
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501 ST. PAUL PLACE . BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

COMPLAINT

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Address Street 22 South Greene Street Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City Baltimore State Maryland Zip Code 21201

1. Kind of business Hospital and Professional Schools
2. Specify the particular building or worksite where the alleged violation is located, including address. Incinerator behind the Med-Tech Building, 31 South Greene Street
3. Specify the name and phone number of employer's agent(s) in charge.  
Facilities Management, Redwood Hall, 528-5000, (Cecil Kelly)
4. Describe briefly the hazard which exists there including the approximate number of employees exposed to or threatened by such hazard.  
Research and autopsy specimens from the University of Maryland Medical complex and from other area hospitals are burned every Thursday (and some times Mondays and Fridays as well) in the incinerator directly behind the  
(CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY)

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5. List by number and/or name the particular standard (or standards) issued by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry which you claim have been violated, if known.

Not known

6. (a) To your knowledge has this violation been considered previously by any Federal, State, or local agency? Not to my knowledge

(b) If so, please state the name of the agency. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) and, the approximate date it was so considered. \_\_\_\_\_

7. (a) Is this complaint, or a complaint alleging a similar violation, being filed with any other Federal, State, or local agency? No

(b) If so, give the name and address of each agency. \_\_\_\_\_

8. (a) To your knowledge, has this violation been the subject of any union/management grievance or have you (or anyone you know) otherwise called it to the attention of, or discussed it with, the employer or any representative thereof? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) If so, please give the results thereof, including any efforts by management to correct the violation.  
Complaints about the stench and smoke have been made, channelled through office supervisors to the Facilities Management Office. That office's

9. Please indicate your desire

- ☒ I do not want my name revealed to the employer.  
☐ My name may be revealed to the employer.

Signature Elaine P. Rice Date 3/7/83  
Typed or Printed Name Elaine Rice, Editor/Publisher, Editorial/Publications, MIEMSS  
Address Street 22 South Grease Street Telephone 528-3248  
City Baltimore State MD Zip Code 21201

If you are a representative of employees, state the name of your organization \_\_\_\_\_

Med-Tech Building, causing smoke, ash and grit debris, and an intolerable stench. Our offices, located on the second floor of that building, become uninhabitable and work is interrupted. In addition to the "inconvenience" and unpleasantness, the burning poses a health hazard which is intensified by the fact that the human and animal material so disposed of is often cancerous or otherwise diseased. There have been occasions when the smoke and stench were not limited to the second floor--they permeated the entire building!

- 8a. response has been to supply excuses ranging from "caused by burning paper bags" to "excessive humidity in the air." To my knowledge, their response never included a real investigation of the situation nor a solution to the problem. In other words, we have to live with the situation regardless of the interruption to our work or the hazard to our health.



HARVEY A. EPSTEIN  
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION  
DIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
501 ST. PAUL PLACE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

COMPLAINT

FORM: DLR/DLI/12-08-MOSH-7/10-82/2M/83-258

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY		
AREA	DATE RECEIVED	TIME
REGION	RECEIVED BY	LOG NO.

This form is provided for the assistance of any complainant and is not intended to constitute the exclusive means by which a complaint may be registered with the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

The undersigned (*check one*)

☒ Employee ☐ Representative of employees ☐ Other (*specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

believes that a violation at the following place of employment of an occupational safety or health standard exists which is a job safety or health hazard.

Does this hazard(s) immediately threaten death or serious physical harm? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Employer's Name University of Maryland (MIEMSS)  
Address Street 22 South Greene Street Telephone 528-3248  
City Baltimore State Maryland Zip Code 21201

1. Kind of business Hospital, Shock Trauma Center
2. Specify the particular building or worksite where the alleged violation is located, including address. Behind Med-Tech Building, 31 South Greene Street
3. Specify the name and phone number of employer's agent(s) in charge. Cecil Kelly, Facilities Management, Redwood Hall, 528-5000
4. Describe briefly the hazard which exists there including the approximate number of employees exposed to or threatened by such hazard.  
At least twice each week, cadavers and animal research specimens from all over the State are incinerated behind our building, just below my office. Escaping fumes are too intolerable to bear, and we can no longer even  
(CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY)

Sec. 35(c) of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973, provides as follows: Any employee or representative of employees who in good faith believes that a violation of a safety or health standard promulgated under this subtitle exists that threatens physical harm to employees or that imminent danger to such employees exists, may request an inspection of said place of employment by giving notice to the Commissioner or his authorized representative of such violation or danger. Any such notice shall be in writing, shall set forth with reasonable particularity the grounds for the notice, and shall be signed by the employee or representative of employees, and a copy shall be provided the employer or his agent no later than at the time of inspection, except that, upon the request of the person giving such notice, his name and the names of individual employees referred to therein shall not appear in such copy or any record published, released, or made available pursuant to any provision of this subtitle. If upon receipt of such notification the Commissioner determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such violation or danger exists, he shall make a special investigation as soon as practicable, to determine if such violation or danger exists. If the Commissioner determines there are no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation or danger exists, he shall notify the employee or representative of the employees in writing of such determination.

5. List by number and or name the particular standard (or standards) issued by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry which you claim have been violated, if known.

Not known

6. (a) To your knowledge has this violation been considered previously by any Federal, State, or local agency? \_\_\_\_\_

Not known

- (b) If so, please state the name of the agency \_\_\_\_\_

- (c) and, the approximate date it was so considered. \_\_\_\_\_

7. (a) Is this complaint, or a complaint alleging a similar violation, being filed with any other Federal, State, or local agency? \_\_\_\_\_

No

- (b) If so, give the name and address of each agency. \_\_\_\_\_

8. (a) To your knowledge, has this violation been the subject of any union/management grievance or have you (or anyone you know) otherwise called it to the attention of, or discussed it with, the employer or any representative thereof? Yes

- (b) If so, please give the results thereof, including any efforts by management to correct the violation.

Yes, complaints have been filed regularly. Responses have been vague and have varied over the past 3 years. We were told the University cannot afford the overtime to burn only on weekends.

9. Please indicate your desire

☐ I do not want my name revealed to the employer.

☒ My name may be revealed to the employer.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or Printed Name Rochelle C. Cohen, Writer/Editor (Medical)

Address { Street 22 South Greene Street Telephone 528-3248  
City Baltimore State MD Zip Code 21201

If you are a representative of employees, state the name of your organization \_\_\_\_\_

remain in the building when burning occurs. Not only am I concerned for my health and the health of my co-workers, but also for my child's. As a nursing mother, I cannot be sure that particles from the smoke and fumes are not seeping into my breast milk, nor how harmful this, combined with residual ashes on my desk, might have been to my baby during my pregnancy.

I am especially concerned about the carcinogenic content in most of the incinerated specimens, and the threat to my well-being even when the odor itself is not noticeable.

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION  
DIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
501 ST. PAUL PLACE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

**COMPLAINT**

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The undersigned (check one)

☒ Employee ☐ Representative of employees ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

believes that a violation at the following place of employment of an occupational safety or health standard exists which is a job safety or health hazard.

Does this hazard(s) immediately threaten death or serious physical harm? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Employer's Name University of Maryland at Baltimore  
Address Street 22 S. Greene St. Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City Baltimore State Maryland Zip Code 21201

1. Kind of business hospital and professional schools
2. Specify the particular building or worksite where the alleged violation is located, including address. incinerator behind the Med-Tech building at 31 S. Greene St.
3. Specify the name and phone number of employer's agent(s) in charge. Facilities Management, Redwood Hall 528-5000 (Cecil Kelly)
4. Describe briefly the hazard which exists there including the approximate number of employees exposed to or threatened by such hazard. On a weekly or biweekly basis, the organic remains of animals and humans are burned in an incinerator behind the building in which I work. The window of my office is above the incinerator. The burning of this

(CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY)

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not known

6. (a) To your knowledge has this violation been considered previously by any Federal, State, or local agency? no

(b) If so, please state the name of the agency \_\_\_\_\_

(c) and, the approximate date it was so considered. \_\_\_\_\_

7. (a) Is this complaint, or a complaint alleging a similar violation, being filed with any other Federal, State, or local agency? no

(b) If so, give the name and address of each agency. \_\_\_\_\_

8. (a) To your knowledge, has this violation been the subject of any union/management grievance or have you (or anyone you know) otherwise called it to the attention of, or discussed it with, the employer or any representative thereof? yes

(b) If so, please give the results thereof, including any efforts by management to correct the violation.

We and our administrators have complained about this problem to the university in the past, but no satisfactory action has been taken to resolve the problem.

9. Please indicate your desire

☒ I do not want my name revealed to the employer.

☐ My name may be revealed to the employer.

Signature

Richard Grauel

Date 3/5/83

Typed or Printed Name Richard Grauel, chief editor/writer, Editorial/Publications, /

MIEMSS

Address { Street 22 S. Greene St. Telephone 528-3248  
City Baltimore State Md. Zip Code 21201

If you are a representative of employees,  
state the name of your organization \_\_\_\_\_



4. material not only creates a nauseating odor, it irritates my eyes. Consequently, it is impossible to work in my office while the incinerator is in operation.

## STATE OF MARYLAND

## DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

HARVEY A. EPSTEIN  
COMMISSIONERDIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

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Every Thursday and sometimes on Mondays, research and autopsy specimens from University of Md. Medical Complex and also from other hospitals in the city are burned in the incinerator behind the Med-Tech Building and directly below our offices. (Cont.)

(CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY)

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Not known

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Over the past three years complaints have been registered on a regular basis with the Facilities Management Office. They have responded by saying the smoke is

caused by burning the paper bags and/or a malfunctioning part and the stench is (cont.)

9. Please indicate your desire

☒ I do not want my name revealed to the employer.

☐ My name may be revealed to the employer.

Signature Beverly Sopp Date 3/1/83

Typed or Printed Name Beverly Sopp, Chief, Editorial/Publications, MIEMSS

Address Street 22 S. Greene Street Telephone 528-3248

City Baltimore State MD Zip Code 21201

If you are a representative of employees,  
state the name of your organization \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation Sheet

4. The stench is intolerable and no one can work in the offices. We are also concerned that the burning is a health hazard, since the human and animal material being disposed of is often cancerous. Ashes and grit on the desks are common as a result of the burning. On several occasions — the last being February 28 — the rooms backing up to the incinerator were filled with smoke. Five employees on the second floor (in offices behind the incinerator) are exposed whenever the burning occurs. There have been occasions, when the stench was evident throughout the entire building — not only in the offices on the second floor.
8. caused by overloading; the temperature being too low; excessive humidity in the air and/or the specimens themselves being wet. In short, they have said we have to live with the stench, despite the fact that the offices are inhabitable during that time.

## STATE OF MARYLAND

## DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

HARVEY A. EPSTEIN  
COMMISSIONERDIVISION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

501 ST. PAUL PLACE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

COMPLAINT

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Employer's Name University of Maryland at Baltimore  
 Address Street 22 South Greene Street Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
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1. Kind of business Hospital and Professional Schools
2. Specify the particular building or worksite where the alleged violation is located, including address. Incinerator behind the Med-Tech Building, 31 S. Greene St.
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Not known

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Over the past three years complaints have been registered on a regular basis with the Facilities Management Office. They have responded by saying the smoke is

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Signature Beverly Sopp Date 3/1/83

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Address Street 22 S. Greene Street Telephone 528-3248

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Continuation Sheet

4. The stench is intolerable and no one can work in the offices. We are also concerned that the burning is a health hazard, since the human and animal material being disposed of is often cancerous. Ashes and grit on the desks are common as a result of the burning. On several occasions — the last being February 28 — the rooms backing up to the incinerator were filled with smoke. Five employees on the second floor (in offices behind the incinerator) are exposed whenever the burning occurs. There have been occasions, when the stench was evident throughout the entire building — not only in the offices on the second floor.
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Typed or Printed Name Beverly Sopp, Chief, Editorial/Publications, MIEMSS

Address Street 22 S. Greene Street Telephone 528-3248

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS

Shock Trauma Center  
CNS Center  
Traumatology  
Critical Care  
Critical Care Nursing  
Hyperbaric Medicine  
Medical Engineering  
Research & Development  
Operations Research/  
Systems Analysis  
EMS Systems  
Education  
Training  
Communications  
Transportation  
Administration  
Evaluation

R ADAMS COWLEY, M.D., DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Beverly Sopp  
FROM: Sharon A. Coleman *sac*  
DATE: April 12, 1983

As per your request, the following is a documentation of my physical side effects which I believe are caused by the operation of the incinerator during working hours behind the Med-Tech building.

I first developed a sinus condition when I started working in the Med-Tech building. I never gave the cause of this condition much thought until I moved into room 215 in September. Since that time I have noticed the sinus infections have increased in number resulting in a staph infection in January which led to labyrinthitis. I was on sick leave a total of 10 days between January 1 and April 1 due to severe dizzy spells and loss of hearing caused by this infection. My ENT specialist said that something (hospital environment) is causing this irritation, but he doesn't know exactly what.

Although the sinus infection has cleared, my sinuses still become very tender and clogged when the incinerator is in operation. These effects last anywhere from hours to days, depending on how severe the burning is on that day; recently I have developed light nose bleeds which I have never had before.

I have also experienced severe headaches, nausea, and dryness of the throat during the burning; for the most part, these symptoms go away after being away from the building. However, there have been a few Thursdays when the "exhaust" from the incinerator was so intense that the symptoms persisted for several days.

My eyes also become very irritated, feeling as though I have dirt in my eyes. I wear contact lenses without difficulty at home or on other days at work, but I can wear them only a few hours on the "burning" days because of this extreme eye irritation.

All of these symptoms are uncomfortable and disruptive to my working day. Although these seem to be short-range side effects from the burning, I do feel this is a serious health hazard and am very concerned about the long-range effects on my future health.

SAC



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS

Shock Trauma Center  
CNS Center  
Traumatology  
Critical Care  
Critical Care Nursing  
Hyperbaric Medicine  
Medical Engineering  
Research & Development  
Operations Research/  
Systems Analysis  
EMS Systems  
Education  
Training  
Communications  
Transportation  
Administration  
Evaluation

R ADAMS COWLEY, M.D., DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Beverly Sopp  
FROM: Elaine P. Rice *EPR*  
DATE: April 13, 1983

Working conditions in the Med-Tech building are far from satisfactory; however, in the expectation of improved office space in the future Shock Trauma Complex, I am prepared to tolerate certain conditions such as freezing temperatures in the summer when the air conditioning is in use, tropical temperatures in the winter which necessitates open-window ventilation, leaky ceilings whenever it rains, sagging floors in some areas, and rodents and cockroaches wandering at will. But I must draw the line at inhaling noxious, irritating, and potentially hazardous fumes from the incinerator behind the Med-Tech building.

Since the incinerator is located directly beneath my office window, I am exposed to the stench and the "grit" that drifts through my office whenever it is in operation, particularly on Mondays and Thursdays. I have noticed an increasing number of health problems occurring on, and immediately after, those days.

For example, my daily dose of Ornade (to control a chronic sinus problem) has effectively protected me from ENT problems until January of this year (when the "burnings" seemed to become more numerous and increasingly objectionable). Since January, in spite of ingesting a double dose of Ornade daily, I have had three sore throats, countless intense sinus headaches (often lasting two to three days each even with aspirin every four hours), a severe sinus infection which required twice the normal amount of medication and time to heal, and frequent bouts of dizziness and nausea.

The incinerator also prevents me from doing my work well and completing it on time, both undesirable and unprofessional attributes.

My husband has expressed his concern in this matter, stating that he would prefer me not to come to work here. In an effort to supply a temporary solution to this problem, I have altered my working schedule to avoid coming to the office on Mondays and Thursdays, but I hope a more permanent solution can be found quickly. I enjoy my work here, but the office is becoming a hazard to my health.

EPR:sac





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R ADAMS COWLEY, M.D., DIRECTOR

April 15, 1983

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Beverly Sopp  
From: Rochelle Cohen  
Re: Burnings

I am writing to express my deep concern about the conditions in my office. Since beginning work here last September, I have developed a number of symptoms, some ongoing and seemingly permanent.

Whenever I am in the office, my nose is continually runny, and my eyes sting. Recently, whenever I leave work, my ear begins to ache, and for a day or so, my nose feels like it is filled with dust particles. I don't think that this is something in my home, since whenever I am off work for a few consecutive days, it disappears.

Since my return from leave in February, I have not been able to wear my contact lenses, since I feel as if I have dust in my eyes and have a scratched cornea.

On days when the actual "body burning" (as we have discussed) occurs, I have had symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, congestion, and earaches. I have never had any of these problems before.

Additionally, I have had three severe illnesses beginning with a sore throat and/or congestion in the last six or eight weeks. I have had a series of expensive sinus x-rays and have seen a doctor for these illnesses; in addition, I have not been able to work during these illnesses and am not compensated for sick time. My doctor (who is also an allergist and Johns Hopkins professor of allergy) said that it is quite possible, but difficult to prove, that my conditions have been caused by environmental factors.

Incidentally, as I am writing this letter in my office, my eyes are stinging and my sinuses are beginning to ache.



Beverly Sopp  
April 15, 1983  
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Bev, as much as I do enjoy and need this job, I will soon have to weigh whether the threat to my health is considerable enough to make me reconsider. My family is concerned, and my husband, who works at a nearby refinery, cannot understand MOSHA's laxity in finding a solution. We are all concerned about my nursing my baby while breathing these questionable particles.

I hope you will be able to get back to me shortly on this matter. Thank you.

RC:bja



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R ADAMS COWLEY, M.D., DIRECTOR

April 8, 1983

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Bill Clark  
From: Andy Trohanis *AT*  
Re: Incinerator Burnings

On Monday morning, April 4, we experienced another crematorium/incinerator burning which again produced an undesirable and obnoxious odor. At that time, we contacted Sandra Palakavetz, director of Risk Management, and Richard Newman, Maintenance Supervisor to assess the problem. They confirmed it was an undesirable odor and would look into the situation. Again on Thursday morning, April 7, we experienced the same situation. Mr. Newman and Ms. Palakavetz were present and agreed the odor was distasteful and created a potential hazardous working condition. They will explore the feasibility of alternative burning times and inspecting the equipment.

AT:bj

cc: Beverly Sopp

APR 11 1983