

## Christine Popowski

"The MPCA understands and acknowledges the concerns of potential impacts expressed by residents near WTE facilities. The best way to address these concerns is to actively pursue the strategies that result in more waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and organics recovery. Once a system is developed that does not need to rely on WTE facilities, then it would be appropriate to look at taking them off-line." This language confirms that the MPCA does not take those concerns seriously, and does not acknowledge the harm that toxins from the incinerator have been proven to cause. The toxins include, but are not limited to: lead, NO<sub>x</sub>, Sulfur Dioxide, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>, PFAS, Arsenic, Mercury, dioxins. A Harvard study released in August states that "Chronic exposure to fine particulate air pollutants (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) may increase non-lung cancer risk in older adults" Anyone who lives near the incinerator is chronically exposed to these emissions. Simply because the emissions "meet EPA standards", does not mean they are not adding to other existing exposures from cumulative impacts. Not only that, there is no 'healthy' consumption of these toxins. No exposure is far better than any exposure. We have safer solutions to dealing with waste.