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## **French Resistance Grows as Tredi Incinerator labelled 'too polluting' to Burn Orica's Toxic Waste**

The National Toxics Network has expressed grave concerns about the operation of the Tredi Seche Global Solutions incinerators at Salaise-sur-Sanne, France. Orica has lodged an application with the Australian government to export highly toxic Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) waste to burn in the Tredi incinerators. Information, which has been made available to NTN indicates that the incinerators have been exceeding their emission limits for dioxin – one of the most toxic chemicals ever assessed. The incinerator has also been releasing high levels of toxic heavy metals including mercury, hexavalent chromium and cadmium.

Potentially the most disturbing revelation is that the incinerators have experienced 188 'bypass' operations in the last year. A 'bypass' is an emergency operation to release uncontrolled, unfiltered and unmeasured emissions while bypassing the filtration mechanisms for the toxic gases that are released from the incinerator stack.

NTN spokesperson Dr Lloyd-Smith stated, "This is an untenable situation which cannot be tolerated by the Australian authorities. Under our international legal obligations we must destroy our HCB waste using environmentally sound technology. An incinerator system that has to go into emergency bypass every second day of the year is clearly not functionally stable let alone environmentally sound. The export should be stopped on this ground alone."

NTN has also received information that the incinerator is responsible for pollution incidents in the Rhône River from the release of large amounts of mercury, organohalogenes, fluorides and other toxic materials.

The attempt to burn Orica's toxic waste in France has angered local communities who are mounting protests against the shipment and have petitioned the Australian government with over 25,000 signatures to reject the export. The first small batch of exported material is intended to break the French community's resistance to burning the waste and will be followed with up to 15,000 tonnes of HCB in subsequent exports.

However, the French environment movement is galvanising against the plan and joining affected communities to protest against burning Orica's toxic waste.

Dr Lloyd-Smith said "We suspect this will be a repeat of Orica's previous two attempts to burn the waste in Germany and Denmark where massive community opposition caused the export plan to collapse. We need to deal with this waste in Australia and the Federal Government needs to make this clear to Orica."

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