MS. LANGDON: I'd like to
get started. Would everyone please sign in on the
attendance sheet, if you haven't already.

Good afternoon. My name is Susan Langdon. I'm Director of Project Development for the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency, and I will be serving as hearing officer for this public hearing. It is now three fifty P.M.

The purpose of this hearing is to solicit comments, both written and oral, on the Covanta Niagara, LP project in the City of Niagara Falls. The project entails the expansion of the steam supply system at the facility, and upgrades to logistical support systems.

I have made copies available of the project's cost/benefit analysis, the project summary and the project application on the table here.

Comments can be in support of, or in opposition to, or on the nature or location of the project. All comments are to be limited to the Covanta Niagara, LP project.

This hearing is not for accepting

comments on any environmental issues, nor environmental determination; and this is not a part of the New York State SEQRA process. The City of Niagara Falls is the lead agency in the SEQRA process, and all comments and concerns relative to environmental issues should be addressed to the City.

The purpose of this hearing is to accept comments relative to the financial incentives that may be granted to Covanta Niagara, LP. The granting of any financial incentives is contingent upon approval by all other Federal, State and local municipal agencies. This is not a debate, or a question-and-answer session. We are here to record your comments, and give them to the NCIDA Board of Directors prior to their decision on the project.

In order to accommodate all the speakers, and we do have quite a few people here today, I respectfully request that you limit your comments to three minutes. There will be only one opportunity per speaker to speak.

I will now read the Notice of Public Hearing. Notice is hereby given that a

york General Municipal Law will be held by the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") on the 4th day of January, 2013, at 3:45 P.M., local time, at the Niagara Falls City Hall, Room 17, 745 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14302, in connection with the following matter:

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Covanta Niagara, L.P., for itself, or on behalf of an entity formed, or to be formed, (the "Company") has submitted an application, (the "Application") to the Agency, a copy of which is on file at the office of the Agency, requesting that the Agency consider undertaking a project, (the "Project") for the benefit of the Company consisting (A) the acquisition or retention of a fee or leasehold interest in various parcels of land with the address of 100 Energy Boulevard at 56th Street in the City of Niagara Falls, New York, (the "Land"); together with several existing structures thereon (the "Existing Improvements); (B)(i) the construction on the Land of approximately twenty-four inch steam supply lines and condensate return lines with Greenpac Mill, LLC, (ii) the

construction of additional steam supply lines and boilers to support development of the adjacent brownfield properties, (iii) construction of a rail to truck handling facility; and (iv) construction of a special waste handling facility, (the "Improvements"); and (C) the acquisition and installation of related machinery, equipment and personal property (the "Equipment", and together with the Land, the Existing Improvements, and the Improvements, the "Facility"), (D) the leasing of the Project back to the Company, and (E) the providing of financial assistance to the Company for qualifying portions of the Project in the form of sales and use tax exemptions, and a mortgage recording tax exemption, consistent with the policies of the Agency, a partial real property tax abatement, and a mortgage recording tax exemption with respect to a certain payment-in-lieu-of-tax mortgage.

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The Agency with acquire or retain title to, or a leasehold in, the Facility, and lease the Facility back to the Company. The Company will operate the Facility during the term of the lease.

At the end of the lease term, the Company will purchase the Facility from the Agency, or if the Agency holds a leasehold interest, the leasehold interest will be terminated. The Agency contemplates that it will provide financial assistance (the "Financial Assistance") to the Company for qualifying portions of the Project in the form of sales and use tax exemptions and a mortgage recording tax exemption for financing related to the Project, consistent with the policies of the Agency, a partial real property tax abatement and a mortgage recording tax exemption with respect to a certain payment-in-lieu-of-tax agreement mortgage.

A representative of the Agency will be at the above-stated time and place to present a copy of the Company's project application, and hear and accept written and oral comments from all persons with views in favor of, or opposed to, or otherwise relevant to the proposed Financial Assistance.

This public hearing is being conducted in accordance with Subdivision 2, Section

859-a of the New York General Municipal Law. Dated
 December 12, 2012; Niagara County Industrial
 Development Agency, by: Samuel M. Ferraro, Executive
 Director.

time?

I will now open the hearing for comments. Please remember to give your name, address, and the organization you represent. Direct all comments to the Chair. Your comments should be made on this project only. And I'll ask if you could step up to the table here, so that our transcriptionist can hear you.

Anyone wishing to speak at this

JOSEPH COLLURA: Hi. I'm Joe
Collura, for the City's Department of Economic
Development. I'd like to submit this statement for
the record.

The City of Niagara Falls is in support of the proposed expansion project by Covanta Niagara, L.P. in the City of Niagara Falls, including its plan to invest over thirty million at its Niagara Falls facility on 56th Street, and to create twenty-three new jobs, which will help secure

its existing workforce, and their future in the City, as well as that of associated industries.

We would like to note that our support of the project, following extensive discussions with Covanta representatives, is based on the following assumptions.

That the PILOT benefits being considered relate only to the new construction, and will have no tax impact on the existing facilities.

That the project will not involve major changes to the type or volume of nonhazardous waste that is received by the existing facility.

That the rail shipments will be received in sealed, metal containers, which will remain sealed at all times while present on-site, and will be opened and resealed only within the enclosed tipping hall.

That the project will significantly reduce the amount of waste shipments by truck to the facility, thereby reducing truck traffic on the local highway network, and related truck emissions.

That the project will remediate

and redevelop the rail site under the New York State Brownfield Cleanup Project, resulting in beneficial impacts to public health, as the remedial programs to be implemented under BCP will address existing on-site contamination detected during the recently completed remedial investigation.

That improvements to the rail infrastructure will create opportunities for new or upgraded industries in the vicinity, potentially allowing former industrial land to be placed back into productive use.

That the current permit allows eight hundred twenty-one thousand, two hundred fifty tons of Municipal Solid Waste per year, with the average tonnage of MSW burned over the last five years, just under eight hundred thousand tons, plus two hundred thousand additional tons of alternative fuel, and that the project will remain within these parameters.

Covanta presently converts waste to energy, and provides process steam to several immediately adjacent industrial companies, which ensures greater efficiencies to those companies; and

more importantly, supports retention of hundreds of additional jobs.

That the new steam boiler will use only natural gas, and is a low-emitting unit, with a primary emission consisting of CO2, over 99.9 percent.

The City of Niagara Falls, therefore, supports the issuance of the standard fifteen-year PILOT, Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Tax, for the purpose as stated in Covanta Niagara's application to the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency.

Finally, the City of Niagara Falls takes this opportunity to encourage Covanta Niagara to make every effort in hiring local labor and contractors for the projected hundred and sixty construction jobs that will be created as a result of the project. As part of Covanta's application, it certifies that it understands and agrees that as a condition of its receiving assistance in the project from the residents of Niagara County, it must use best efforts to use Niagara County labor for the construction of new, expanded or renovated facilities. This requirement includes all project

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1	employees of the general contractor, subcontractor,
2	or subs to the subcontractor working on the project.
3	Thank you.
4	MS. LANGDON: Does anyone
5	else wish to speak? Sir.
6	RUSS QUARANTELLO: My name is
7	Russ Quarantello; 8803 Niagara Falls Boulevard. I'm
8	with the IBEW, the local electrical people.
9	And I'm in support of the project,
10	as long as it uses local people, because our city
11	has very high unemployment. And if it's their tax
12	dollars, I feel that it should the jobs should go
13	to the local people first and foremost. Thank you.
14	MS. LANGDON: Thank you.
15	Does anyone else wish to speak? Sir.
16	BILL RUTLAND: My name is
17	Bill Rutland. I'm from Lockport, New York; 5798
18	Locust Street. I represent Public Employees of
19	AFSCME Local 182 of Niagara County.
20	I object to this project for
21	several reasons. I, like Russ, would like to see
22	local labor being used on the project. But with the
23	language that is represented here, I think who's

going to police best efforts to use Niagara County labor? It's a pretty vague term.

The Greenpac facility received huge tax breaks, and brought in out-of-state contractors to do the job. Local workers got very little of the work.

I don't see that this language is going to provide any more guarantees that local work is going to be used, local labor is going to be used to get this project done. I wish the IDA would have adopted stronger language that required local labor.

I also believe that we're giving away assets to this project, that's similar to what the Power Authority is taking away from us to create energy, that we didn't get any benefit from. We pay the highest electrical rates in the nation, with the Power Authority right here.

And now here we're going to have a plant converting waste to energy, and I don't believe any of the municipalities in Niagara County can afford to bring their waste to this facility to have it burned, and we have to pay the cheaper rates to put in it a landfill. If this company was to

1 offer, you know, significant savings to the local municipalities to bring their waste in, as long as 2 3 this -- I mean, as well as New York City is bringing their waste in, an affordable rate that would 4 5 benefit Niagara County, I think it would be a great 6 But I don't think you're going to see Niagara 7 County waste being burned in this. I believe the 8 fees are too prohibitive. Thank you. 9 MS. LANGDON: Thank you. 10 Anyone else? 11 AMY H. WITRYOL: First of all. 12 thank you to those IDA Board members who are 13 attending this hearing. I know Mr. Sloma is here. 14 It's not required under State statute for Board 15 members to attend public hearings or to answer 16 questions. I certainly would encourage the IDA 17 Board to also exercise discretion to have a public 18 discussion over any of the issues raised here today. 19 MS. LANGDON: Amy, would you 20 give your name? 21 AMY H. WITRYOL: Sure. Amy H. 22 Witryol. Sue, I've got this written down, so you

have a written statement. Amy Witryol, Lewiston.

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The Niagara County IDA Board is urged to vote no on the Covanta application because available information indicates that there will be no jobs retained or created as a result of the eight million dollars in proposed giveaways.

If the IDA approves the Covanta application, taxpayers of Niagara Falls, Niagara County, and New York State will be asked to pick up an eight million dollar tab to benefit stockholders of a New Jersey company.

People of the City of Niagara

Falls and Niagara County have one of the worst

property tax burdens, relative to value, in the

entire United States, which is an obstacle to

attracting jobs and residents. The proposed eight

million dollar Covanta giveaway would shift the

company's profit-making responsibility to residents.

This destroys, rather than creates, taxpayer value.

Operators in this industry often pay host community fees or discount waste disposal. Why is it the City of Niagara Falls gets neither in this case? The IDA application proposes we, instead, pay Covanta for investments it seems to be

planning in any case, additional profits we're being asked to provide for steam and electricity generation will go to stockholders, not to local customers or taxpayers.

I'll address the job retention and creation issues more specifically in a moment; but first, would like to address the inappropriateness, from my view, of making financial decisions without a reasonable understanding of public health impacts.

With regard to what some officials are promoting as rail as a way to partially replace truck traffic from Toronto, it should be noted that Covanta is constructing a new facility in what it refers to as quote, suburban Toronto. Regardless, there is no known agreement between Covanta and the City or County to reduce trucks. Why not? The Covanta application estimates the number of new rail trips into the City. If truck traffic will permanently decline, why haven't we seen any data and an agreement to reduce the number of trucks?

State DEC is Covanta Niagara the only
waste-to-energy incinerator allowed to burn

Why, according to the New York

industrial waste in the State? In contrast to hazardous waste disposal, solid waste disposal markets are typically local. However, Covanta Niagara burns industrial waste from twenty-two states and Puerto Rico, in addition to Ontario. Why do places like Wisconsin and Kansas ship industrial waste here to be burned? Why does Covanta have a hazardous waste storage permit if it burns only nonhazardous waste?

Not only did the company fail to disclose its proposal to regulators for a new hundred and ninety foot high smokestack for burner number five at this facility; no one has mentioned the potential for a burner number six. We don't even know what emissions will come with burner number five, which is part of the current project, and already there has been private discussion of a burner number six.

Will burning more industrial waste be worth a partial reduction in truck traffic?

According to company reports, during the past four years the amount of industrial waste burned at Covanta Niagara has increased by forty-two percent.

The amount of medical waste burned here increased twenty-seven percent during that same period. The quote, unquote, special waste handling construction project is consistent with Covanta's stated strategy to burn more industrial waste. In 2011, twenty-one percent of what Covanta burned was industrial waste. How much more do Niagara Falls and County residents want? A jobs claw-back would provide zero local control over the future waste volumes, emissions and trucks.

What is the impact on public health; on our image; our ability to attract residents and clean business to the area? What does the public want? No one can answer these questions, because Covanta has not disclosed its emissions estimates for public review, or provided detail on future plans.

Regulatory documents suggest potentially impacted areas may be up to twelve point four miles, or twenty thousand meters away. That area overlaps more than a dozen Title V Air Permit holders, to include Tonawanda Coke, as well as the towns of Lewiston and Wheatfield, the Tuscarora

Nation, and Grand Island, among others.

Therefore, it seems premature to promote these projects without also understanding the impact to public health, which cannot be assessed without knowing what the company plans for emissions.

Some local officials have been repeatedly quoted in the press as saying we are merely trading trucks for trains; when that's clearly not the case. And it seems very misleading for the company to repeatedly state there will be no change to the wastes it is, quote, unquote, permitted to burn; when the mix of what is actually burned here has, and may continue to change.

There have been improvements in reducing air emissions at Covanta and other facilities over the decades; but there's also new evidence that certain emissions are more dangerous than previously believed. Regardless, there may be opportunities for improvement with this project, while giving residents some say in the amount of pollution they can tolerate in the future. But that's not going to happen when we have officials

using a sliver of information to praise a project with no strings attached. And I join labor in their concern that there are no formal strings attached for local jobs, as well. County residents and residents of Niagara Falls deserve some control over their future in this regard.

Now to the Cost/Benefit Analysis in the IDA application; there has been no evidence presented to indicate, to my acknowledge, that Covanta would not got forward with its projects and associated hiring absent the proposed eight million dollars in tax breaks. The Cost/Benefit Analysis in the IDA application relies on job creation to justify about eighteen percent of the proposed eight million dollar giveaway. But the company seems committed to the projects in any case.

First, the parent company has a strategic goal of increasing special waste, and Niagara is the only one of ten waste-to-energy facilities permitted in New York State that is allowed to incinerate industrial waste. Therefore, the company cannot substantially increase or efficiently process more industrial waste here

without the special waste handling expansion project before the IDA.

Secondly, a long-term agreement to sell steam to Greenpac would be sufficient to fund the pipeline construction and the natural gas-fired boiler projects.

And third, the price of waste disposal in Western New York is less, compared to other areas. Therefore, the rail access project provides the company considerably more profitable operations than competing locally.

With respect to the job retention; the Cost/Benefit Analysis relies on job retention as roughly eighty percent of the eight million dollars proposed in tax waivers. These assumptions seem grossly lacking in credibility.

First, a Niagara County IDA subsidiary just completed the refinance of a hundred and sixty-five million dollars in Covanta Niagara and other debts, which freed up two hundred and eighty million dollars in additional cash over the next five years, according to the company. Of this, one hundred and thirty million was underwritten for

a term of thirty years, with a thirty-five million dollar balance for twelve years, presumably, the difference between personal property and real property. Which, by the way, provides an opportunity for the City of Niagara Falls to nearly triple its market value and assessment for property tax purposes. In any case, this refinance is certainly not consistent with the risk of job loss any time soon.

Secondly, the company's application states that all of its projects, all four, which Ms. Langdon reviewed for us at the beginning of this hearing, all of them will be a hundred percent funded by equity, with no reliance whatsoever on debt for the investment, let alone IDA tax breaks. This contradicts the notion of both job retention and job creation as a result of any IDA giveaways.

And third, SEC filings by Covanta report that of its forty-one U.S. waste-to-energy facilities, Niagara -- the Niagara plant is the seventh largest in volume of waste burned; the eleventh largest in the megawatts of electricity

sold; and the fourth longest in terms of contracts, some with that have expirations that go out to 2024.

If it were really true that tax breaks were necessary for job retention, would the company have effectively misled stockholders and creditors about the stability of the Niagara operations in its reports?

Niagara County is already the number one destination for waste disposal in New York State, with the second-largest solid waste landfill in all of New York, the second-largest waste incinerator, and the only industrial waste incinerator, apparently, in all of New York, and the only commercial chemical landfill in all of New York. Covanta Niagara burns industrial waste from twenty-two states, Puerto Rico, and Ontario. Why? We should note, nearly twenty-five percent of what is burned ends up in Niagara County landfills, driving up our own disposal costs.

There are many ways to produce steam, and burning waste is reportedly among the least preferable. According to the major newspapers, in 2011 the State concluded that

waste-to-energy facilities generate more pollution for energy than coal-fired plants, and fourteen times the amount of mercury.

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In its comments about Covanta to the Public Service Commission, the Office of the Attorney General noted that subsidizing waste-to-energy facilities was inconsistent with the State's solid waste and climate change policies. New York has stated goals to reduce waste disposal by eighty-five percent in the next seventeen years, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by eighty percent over the next thirty-eight years. This is apparently why the State does not subsidize facilities like Covanta Niagara under environmental programs. The report goes on to say that without new technology, quote, even the lowest CO2-emitting fossil fuels, such as natural gas, must be very limited, or even eliminated, by the year 2050, unquote.

In summary, itemizing other errors and omissions in Covanta's application should not be necessary to conclude that any tax breaks are inappropriate and unnecessary for these projects;

and hurt, rather than help, Niagara Falls and Niagara County jobs and taxpayers.

Based on the available information, to reiterate; first, the company does not need tax breaks to incentivize the proposed projects, effectively forcing Niagara County taxpayers to pay for an eight million dollar giveaway.

Second, public health risks cannot be assessed without the review of DEC permits, and a binding agreement between Covanta and the City to live within specified limits on trucks and emissions.

Third, Niagara County is already the number one destination for waste disposal in New York State. This distinction seems to depress, rather than enhance, our image and ability to attract business and residents.

Fourth, facilities like Covanta

Niagara are at conflict with State policy.

And again, I would reiterate, and share the concern over best efforts versus contractual agreements for local labor for any of these projects.

1 Thank you for your consideration. 2 MS. LANGDON: Thank you. Does anyone else wish to speak? 3 4 SHIRLEY HAMILTON: Hello. Mγ 5 name is Shirley Hamilton. I reside at 1155 Ontario 6 Avenue in Niagara Falls, New York 14305. I am the 7 President of the Niagara Falls branch of the NAACP. 8 When people think about climate 9 change, the first thing that comes to people's minds 10 are melting icecaps, suffering polar bears. 11 However, many fail to make the connection in terms 12 of the direct impact on our own lives, families and 13 communities. 14 Climate change is about Katrina, 15 Rita, and Ike devastating communities in 16 Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Texas. Climate 17 change is about our brothers and sisters in the 18 Bahamas who are losing their homes to rising sea 19 levels in the coming years. Climate change is about 20 people in Detroit, Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere 21 who have died, and are dying, from exposure to 22 toxins from coal-fired plants. 23 Climate change is about our

brothers and sisters in West Virginia who are breathing toxic ash from blasting for mountaintop removal. Climate change is about our folks in Louisiana who are being forced to move within the next ten years because the rising sea levels will result in submersion of coastal lands that are currently their homes.

It's about the fact that race-over-class as the number one indicator for the placement of toxic facilities in this country.

Climate change is about the fact that in our communities it is far easier to find a bag of Cheetos than a carton of strawberries.

Climate change is about us.

Global climate change has a disproportionate impact on communities of color in the United States and around the world. The NAACP Climate Justice Initiative was created to educate and mobilize communities to address this human and civil rights issue. I am speaking and seeking climate justice for the City of Niagara Falls and the surrounding communities.

You see, I am old enough to

remember. I remember when there were no mountains in Niagara Falls. I remember when there was flat land near K-Mart. I watched as that plant -- that plain land rose into a hill that you can see from the street. I watched as the hill grew into a mountain that you could notice from I-190. And I continued to watch as that small hill grew into a fully-fledged mountain that can be viewed from miles away. This is not a natural mountain. This is a man-made mountain, full of garbage; thousands and thousands of tons of garbage. Our garbage. And it disturbs me.

What really disturbs me is the fact that this measure would allow thousands of tons of more garbage to be railed from New York City to one of the poorest areas in New York State, Niagara Falls, for a few jobs; approximately five indirect jobs in the County, and twelve induced jobs in Niagara County. According to the Regional Economic Impact Analysis, Covanta Niagara, LP there will be eleven created in support of a rail project, and one in support of a special waste project for the first year; the second year, there will be six jobs in

support of the rail project, and six in support of the special waste project.

And although I do understand that Covanta is in business to burn garbage, all that garbage has residue, and that residue adds to our mountain behind K-Mart.

As I stated, I'm old enough to remember. I remember Love Canal, and those families affected by the chemicals buried there. I remember the Jefferson family, who had approximately eleven children, and all but two members of the family died from exposure to dangerous chemicals. One of the children is still being treated for tumors, and her niece suffers from tumors because her mother died from exposure to these toxins. Even today, there are questions concerning the illnesses currently coming out of that community. I remember.

So I find it interesting, at the least, to find that Covanta's application for this PILOT did not include any testing results from the burning of, as according to a Buffalo News' article, the eight hundred tons of garbage it currently burns.

Also missing is an Environmental Impact Statement.

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It is my impression from reading the article from the Niagara Frontier Publication that some may think that Covanta is a Clean Energy Company; when, in fact, it is not. According to the Toxic Air Pollution Impacts for the Proposed Covanta Energy in Chester County, Covanta's incinerator could emit two point eight million pounds of pollution annually, and five hundred and seventy-five pounds of global warming carbon The list of toxic air pollutants which dioxide. could be emitted from Covanta's proposed waste-to-energy incinerator in Chester County include carbon dioxide, one billion five hundred and fifty million, four hundred and eighty thousand pounds; nitrogen oxide, two million seventy-nine thousand forty pounds; sulfur dioxide, three hundred and twenty-three thousand five hundred and thirty-six pounds; carbon monoxide, two hundred and seventy thousand pounds; hydrochloric acid, one hundred and twenty-three thousand pounds; particulates, thirty-six thousand; mercury, one

thousand two hundred eighty-four pounds; lead;chromium; arsenic; and dioxin, a known carcinogen.

These emission totals were based on Covanta's publicly-stated proposal to burn one thousand and six hundred tons of municipal waste.

There is also an Area Pollution

Impact Map included in this study. I do have this;

I will give you a copy.

With Niagara Falls High School, along with Niagara Catholic High School so close to the proximity of this plant, one must ask, why would we continue to allow toxic exposure?

In 1991 in Indianapolis, Indiana, the EPA counted a total a six thousand violations of Ogden Martin's, aka Covanta's, incinerator permit limits during a two-year period, from 1989 to 1991, at the facility in Indianapolis. Among the violations committed, the company bypassed their pollution controls, scrubber and bag houses, a hundred and eighteen to twenty times. The incinerator had twenty-seven boiler tube failures with one year.

In November of 2006, in Chester,

Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Clean Air found and fined Covanta with a forty-five thousand six hundred dollar civil penalty for excessive toxic nickel and related compounds emissions. According to the tests conducted, the emissions were more than twice the permitted level. Nickel compounds are known human carcinogens, according to the World Health Organization.

In March of 2006 in Honolulu,

Hawaii, the Hawaii Department of Health found that
the incinerator Covanta operates exceeded the
emissions limits for dioxin and lead during 2005,
and fined the company six thousand and two hundred
dollars.

In July 2007, the Connecticut

Department of Environmental Protection cited Covanta

for excessive dioxin emissions at their facility in

Wallingford.

In August 2008, the New York -the New Jersey agency also fined Covanta fourteen
thousand thirty-five dollars for air pollution
violations from 2006 to 2008, including illegal
carbon monoxide emissions, and for exceeding the

State's limits for visible emissions.

In New Jersey, the New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection has
repeatedly cited Covanta for air pollution at three
incinerators the company operates in that state.
During 2009, the agency had fined Covanta twenty-six
thousand nine hundred dollars for violations at a
facility in Warren County from 2003 to 2007; twenty
thousand dollars for violations at a facility in
Union County from 2007 to 2009. The violations
are -- of the incinerators included excessive
emissions of sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide.

In 2008, the Pennsylvania

Department of Environmental Protection has repeatedly cited an incinerator Covanta operates for air pollution violations. Since 2005, the agency has issued ten consent assessments against Covanta at the facility, penalizing the company for a total of one hundred thirty-one thousand eight hundred dollars. The violations have included excessive emissions of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrochloride and nitrogen oxide, from 2004 to 2008.

In July 2008, the Florida

Department of Environmental Protection fined Covanta eleven thousand dollars for excessive dioxin emissions during 2008.

In August of 2008 in Newark, the New Jersey agency fined Covanta fourteen thousand thirty-five dollars for pollution for -- from 2006 to 2008 for illegal carbon monoxide emissions, and for exceeding the State limit.

In September 2008, the

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
cited Covanta for exceeding the allowable emissions
rates for dioxins by nearly three hundred and fifty
percent, according to the tests conducted in 2007.

That agency cited the facility for failing to report
other violations of its operating permit during
2008, and fined Covanta seven thousand, six hundred
and fifty-three dollars.

The World Health Organization also classifies dioxin as a known human carcinogen.

In July of 2011, Covanta paid four hundred thousand dollars in fines after its

Connecticut plant sent toxic dioxins into the air.

It also paid dioxin emissions fines in 2009.

1 According to the comments of our 2 New York State Attorney General, Eric Schneiderman, 3 dated August 19, 2011 to the Public Service 4 Commission for the application of Covanta Energy 5 Corporation's modification of the list of eligible 6 resources, he states; the Renewable Energy Portfolio 7 Standard, RPS, established by the PSC, Public 8 Service Commission, in 2004, is recognized as a 9 means to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels, and 10 to develop new sources of energy power based on 11 renewable, clean and sustainable technologies. 12 PSC rejected waste-to-energy, WTE, as a renewable 13 energy source eligible for the RSP ratepayer subsidy 14 in 2004, and then again in 2010; finding, among 15 other things, that the emissions from the 16 waste-to-energy facilities in New York were greater 17 than emissions from coal-fired plants on a per unit 18 of energy generation basis. In its current 19 petition, Covanta has failed to demonstrate that it 20 has addressed the concerns identified for the record 21 prior to the RPS proceedings.

Section C of the Attorney

General's Statement states, and I have that here for

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you, too; subsidizing additional waste-to-energy capacity is inconsistent with the State Climate Change Policy. Governor's Executive Order 24, initiated by Governor Paterson in August of 2009, and continued by Governor Cuomo in January 2011, establishes New York's goal for a robust clean energy economy by the year 2050, defined, in part, by eighty percent reduction of the State's greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 level by the year 2050, 80 by '50. Beginning the design and implementation of the policies necessary to achieve these ambitious, but necessary, goals, the New York State Climate Action Council has established by the Order, and produced the 2010 Climate Action Plan Interim Report. In describing the energy system, the transformation necessary to power the clean energy economy, the report concludes unambiguously that New York must develop abundant, affordable, safe and sustainable sources of clean energy, all near-zero carbon emissions.

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It also finds that the New York

State's RPS is an important tool to incentivize the development and the expansion of renewable energy

sources. The State's analysis of the 80 by '50 goal and the clarity it provides in defining terms such as low carbon, clean energy, can assist the Public Service Commission in evaluating the appropriateness of including waste-to-energy in its RPS program.

The report describes the prerequisite of having a near carbon-free electrical grid to reached 80 by '50, and how, as a result of combustion of even the lowest CO2-emitting fossil fuels, such as natural gas, must be very limited, or even eliminated altogether, by the year 2050. Similarly, CO2 emissions from waste-to-energy facilities that supply power into the grid will experience the same type of emission constraints. As a result, it is important that the PSC be provided accurate information to support a comprehensive analysis of the current and future carbon-intensity of waste-to-energy facility emissions.

As explained in the following, the Covanta petition is inadequate in this regard. The waste-to-energy facilities generate CO2 emissions during combustion, where oxidation of the carbon

contained within the biogenic and non-biogenic waste occurs. Regardless of the carbon source of the emissions, the heat-trapping properties of the CO2 ultimately released into the atmosphere are identical. Total CO2 stack emissions, also referred to as gross or direct emissions, are high from the waste-to-energy facilities. The national average is three thousand pounds of CO2 per megawatt. The emissions rate for a waste-to-energy plant is greater than that of fossil fuel combustion facilities, including coal plants, on a per unit of energy basis.

Moreover, Covanta's petition does not analyze several important landfill-related considerations when calculating the net CO2 emissions for waste-to-energy facilities, such as the amount of carbon permanently sequestered in a landfill when MSW is deposited, and therefore, is not released as CO2 to the atmosphere; the high uncertainty associated with the estimates of methane leakage through the landfill caps; the visibility and performance of new, modern landfills, as opposed to older, non-engineered landfills.

1 Section 4 of the Attorney

General's statement states air pollutant emissions from Covanta's waste-to-energy facilities generally exceed emissions from fossil fuel facilities in New York State.

An important goal of the RPS is to improve the quality of the environment for all New Yorkers. Our 2003 comments to the Public Service Commission regarding waste-to-energy stated, Table 2 updates the status of relevant waste-to-energy air emissions in New York State since the 2004 PSC Order, comparing emission rates of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury, lead, and hydrochloric acid from all waste-to-energy facilities and coal-fired power plants operating in New York State. The analysis shows that waste-to-energy air emissions continue to exceed those of New York's coal-fired power plants for the pollutants listed, with the exception of S02 on a per unit of energy-generated basis.

As according to the Bylaws of the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency, adopted August 22. 1972, Article 8 Section 2. Site

of the Agency Projects states, the Agency shall not approve any project that shall be in violation of anti-pollution laws of the State or County. And Section 2.3; the Agency shall not approve any project which shall be in -- you know, you've got a typo in there -- in contravention of health, labor, or other laws of the State of New York or the United States, or local laws of the County of Niagara.

Niagara Falls cannot be allowed to continue to be the lead in cancers, toxins, brownfields, contaminated sites, and air pollution for the price of twenty-three jobs. Our children and our community deserve better than this.

For this reason, and for the reasons I have stated, the NAACP is requesting an Environmental Impact Statement and an Environmental Assessment, all air monitoring reports at this site, current and proposed, prior to approval of this project, this PILOT; and for the members of the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency to vote no on this application.

I don't know who to give these to.

Sue, I'm giving you a copy of all the violations

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1	that I have. There's some labor violations in
2	there, too; along with the Attorney General's
3	statement. Thank you.
4	MS. LANGDON: Could we have
5	a copy of your written statement for the record, too?
6	SHIRLEY HAMILTON: You know what,
7	I've got to clean up those typos. I'll e-mail it to
8	you.
9	MS. LANGDON: Thank you,
10	Shirley. Anyone else wish to speak? Anyone else?
11	Sir.
12	HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: Well, I don't
13	have a long list.
14	MS. LANGDON: Could we have
15	your name and address first?
16	HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: Yes. My name
17	is Henry Richard Krawczyk. I live at 5659 John
18	Avenue, in the City of Niagara Falls. This is just
19	off of 56th Street.
20	And I've thumbed through some of
21	these notes, and I see like direct effects, indirect
22	effects, and other things that pertain to me and
23	impact me on a very personal level. The reason that

this is impacting me so severe is that because of my proximity to the former Cecos waste dump, every night I have to tolerate an extreme noise level, compounded by the trains that are coming through on the tracks. I can see the train right from my house, and it is loud, just the train itself; not to mention the whistle-blowing, the steam. The train will actually sit right across from my house and sit there and idle, with a low rumble.

Also, in regards to the noise level coming from these plants, because they keep expanding on 56th Street, including a turbine that is used for this waste treatment plant where they burn garbage, they have to use the steam to spin the turbine. That turbine is off balance, and I feel it in my house. I can't set a piece of paper on any flat, level countertop and not have it fall off every day. In fact, in living in my house, I'm woken up in the middle of the night by things falling off the shelves, falling off the walls constantly. My windows rattle with the spring inside, a high-pitched vibration. I can hear it. It keeps me awake. I smacked on the wall, and it

stopped for a few seconds, and then goes back to vibrating. This is what I have to tolerate right now.

Not to mention the smell and the odor coming from all these factories that are burning this waste currently, including the former Niagara Refuel. And as far as I know, I believe that this Covanta has bought out Niagara Refuel.

Well, that's all well and fine.

They've got a modern-engineered German furnace, with these high-temperature revolving drums that can burn up most waste products. But when anything is incinerated, it still has to go up a stack, and the wind blows in my direction. I breathe it. I have asthma now. This is how it affects me personally every day of my life.

Now, when I first bought this house, I moved into it many years ago, just off of 56th Street, there were existing railroad tracks. They were rusted over; they were abandoned; they were not used. The amount of noise coming from the factory was nil; didn't hear anything. There was Goodyear over there; they're minding their own

business. Didn't smell any fumes. Life was pleasant. I could go outside and enjoy my backyard.

Right now, the sound pressure level is so intense in my backyard on any given day that there is no enjoyment to be seen. I've got picnic tables set up back there. I can't sit there and enjoy a picnic by myself, or invite over friends; they'd say what is that smell; they'd say what's all this noise coming from.

And currently, since Covanta has been operating on a lower scale right now, just recently, within the last week, at five o'clock in the morning they had a pressure release valve pressure release steam. I know what it is. I'm a technical person. So in other words, if you're doing such a good job now, then why is a pressure release valve popping off and blowing out steam at such a high-pressure sound level that I'm sure for blocks around it woke everybody up?

I mean, everybody in that neighborhood, if they knew about this meeting, would probably be here. But a lot of these meetings -- I just found out about this two days ago, because I

happened to inquire. Okay.

I live in this area, and it's intolerable. I can't breathe. I caught the flu because of the asthma induced by all the chemicals that I have to smell right now, because -- it's just plain common sense. You know, you burn a hazardous waste thing, and you're going to have fumes coming off. And where is the wind blowing? Right towards my house.

Two weeks ago, I opened up the door to go into my hallway, the smell was so bad I actually vomited. And the smell, in that case, was coming from the Cecos waste dump. In regards to the Cecos waste dump; I have a friend now that is dead, so he can't be a witness, but the corrupt city politicians were issuing permits --

MS. LANGDON: Could we keep this to the Covanta project, please?

HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: Okay.

MS. LANGDON: That's what this hearing is for, sir. We appreciate your comments.

HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: All right. I

object to Covanta operating here. And it's just not common sense for Covanta to import all this garbage from New York City. Why should we have to provide this service to New York City? If Covanta wants to do this, I'm going to tell them dismantle that plant, ship it to New York City, or a surrounding area over there, not in the heart of a city, and operate over there. There's no reason why they couldn't do that. But it's cheaper and easier to do it here.

And this public cry; oh, we're going to have a new company come into Niagara Falls to provide jobs. Well, she wants me to stick to the topic, but I can personally vouch for many, many times that that was the cry that the city politicians said in order to provide permits to companies, and also to give them all kinds of tax abatements. I pay my taxes. I pay my taxes for living right next to where they're polluting the hell out of me. Okay. I've got to breathe these fumes every day. I've got to feel the vibrations. I wish I could rap this table as bad as I have to live with it every day. Because they won't even

engineer this centrifuge, and you know, get things operating correctly, where it's balanced.

Not to mention, they're having a valve pop off in the middle of the night. And it's not once; this goes on repeatedly. So if they're allowing this to happen, who is monitoring all these gauges? Why are they wasting this so-called precious steam.

And in regard to that other paper plant that's going to utilize not only the steam that's generated, but additional steam, I thought this was to produce electricity. I don't see our electric bills going down. We're taxed the highest on our electric bills in the state now. In fact, we're second-highest in the nation, from what I understand, and we don't even get our electricity from the Falls. We get it from the Huntley Plant, okay, creating a lot of pollution.

And I don't understand why Niagara
Falls, New York, that's supposed to be on the
premise of this beautiful city being in Niagara
Falls with its natural wonder, why we've got to be
the waste dump of the world: because we're getting

1 it from Canada; we're getting it from New York City. All the electricity -- well, most of it that we're 2 3 generating from the Falls is being shipped right 4 across our state to New York City for them to use 5 Why do I have to put up with the burden? 6 Those high-tension towers are 7 directly over my head, right where I live. Is it 8 frying my brain? Maybe. I don't know. 9 personal experience, certain people are immune to 10 the electromagnetic waves, and other people are more 11 susceptible. I have a childhood friend that lived 12 under it, and went to school under it. He died a long time ago. A lot of people are dying in Niagara 13 Falls. 14 15 MS. LANGDON: Mr. Krawczyk, 16 do you have anything else that you'd like to add 17 about this Covanta project? 18 HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: Yes. I don't 19 think it's fair to allow this to go on. Okay. 20 And also, in regards to them 21 burning waste; already we're trucking in all kinds 22 of dioxins. Okav. Now they're going to burn waste;

could be commercial waste, could be industrial

23

waste. What about medical waste? Nobody said anything about medical waste. The thought of them taking in medical waste in New York City; they've got hospitals out there; burning somebody's heart or liver, and the fumes go up into the air, and then I've got to breathe it in. Is that right? Is that fair?

I'm paying my taxes. And for what, twenty-three jobs, they get all kinds of tax abatements? Okay. This is not fair. It's not right. And it's about time people look at this from a common-sense perspective, not from a dollars-and-cents, you know. Everybody knows, but they're not mentioning it.

This one nice lady here did mention something about us having a high cancer rate. And what about Cerebral Palsy? I think that we're like one of the highest in all of the United States. And we're having all these ill health effects.

So how does it impact me right now? I can't grow a garden anymore, because all these chemicals are leeching over. I can't enjoy

going outside because of the vibrations caused by this centrifuge, and everything else that they're doing over there. And then I'm constantly being woke up in the middle of the night because they're blowing off steam; just the sheer nonstop volume of noise, it's deafening at times.

MS. LANGDON: And we appreciate your comments. I think that we get the gist of what you're saying, and the Board will see a transcript of your comments before they make their decision. Thank you.

HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: Well, I'd like to add one final thought. And quite honestly, I'm sick of our politicians that we elect, some of them are appointed for us, them issuing permits for these outside companies to come into our city and our town, and allowing them to do certain things that affect us personally. Okay. And this is how it's affecting me personally every day. And I object to that, and I'm adamant. Who knows how long I'm going to live.

But if these city politicians issue permits and condone this company importing

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1	further garbage from New York City, or anywhere
2	else, coming into our city, where it's going to
3	affect me and my neighborhood, and all the citizens
4	surrounded in this area, then I'm going to start
5	class action suits, not only against Covanta, but
6	the individual city politicians that continuously allow
7	this to go on in our city to kill our citizens. I'm not
8	talking about, you know, just inconveniencing
9	us. I mean, this is affecting me on a very personal
10	level
11	MS. LANGDON: Yes, sir.
12	HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: severely
13	right now.
14	MS. LANGDON: We appreciate
15	your comments. We really appreciate your comments.
16	This is the IDA hearing for Covanta. I think we get
17	the gist of what you're saying. And like I said,
18	the Board will read what you said.
19	HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: Okay.
20	MS. LANGDON: Thank you very
21	much.
22	HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: Thank you.
23	MS. LANGDON: Does anyone

else wish to speak? Ma'am.

MARY ANN ROLLAND: I came more for information. My name is Mary Ann Rolland. I head Rolland Development Company. I restore historic houses in Niagara Falls. I'm also a member of Citizens for Responsible Government in the Youngstown/Lewiston area.

So I'm very concerned about these environmental issues. And hearing the information that has been presented, I am really feeling that it's not a good recommendation for the City of Niagara Falls. We're losing people here in Niagara Falls right and left, and to have hazardous waste burning right in the city -- I was driving by 190 last night right around the big landfill, and there was very toxic odors coming off that area. And it was just right there near where it goes by the Fashion Outlet Mall. So that can't be good for business in that area, you know, if you're renting, releasing these odors, and so on, for hazardous waste.

I don't know what this special waste is that is going to be included. But if it's

1 medical waste, I think that should be eliminated 2 from the permit. I don't think you should allow 3 medical waste to be included at all, because of the 4 health concerns that it can promote. 5 They're going to put a new 6 smokestack up. It will probably be a lot taller. 7 It will spread over a lot wider area, and our whole region will be impacted. 8 9 So I think there's some very good 10 things about using the rail instead of the trucks. 11 I mean, we're fighting the truck traffic for 12 hazardous waste for our schools down in 13 Lewiston/Porter. And so that's a good thing. 14 And I know how desperately we need 15 jobs in this area. But I think the IDA really needs 16 to take another look at this, and not give them 17 eight million dollars for doing this. That just 18 doesn't make sense to me. That's all I have to say. 19 MS. LANGDON: Thank you very 20 much, ma'am. Anyone else? 21 Seeing that no one else wishes to

speak, I'll close the hearing. It's now -HENRY R. KRAWCZYK: Could I add an

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