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Office of the
Minister

Ministry
of the
Environment

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May 5, 1987

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Mr. Steven Shrybman
Counsel
Canadian Environmental Law Association
243 Queen Street West, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Shrybman:

Thank you for your January 21, 1987 letter regarding Energy from Waste Refuse Incinerators. I appreciate the continuing interest and involvement of CELA in the Ministry's program and policy development.

As you may well be aware, I have adopted a cautious approach in terms of the incineration of municipal waste. While I have not to date imposed a moratorium, each new proposal will have to meet all Ontario environmental requirements including state-of-the-art air pollution control, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis based on specific merits.

In parallel with this cautious approvals approach, staff have continued to expand their programs and undertake new initiatives relating to incineration, dioxin and furan management, and landfill waste disposal guidelines. I have attached a recent 'FACTS' sheet (Ontario Programs for Environmental Management of Dioxins and Furans) which provides a summary of our broad current programs on incineration and dioxins.

Your suggestion that staff undertake a comparison of the potential environmental effects of waste incineration and landfill waste disposal has considerable merit. While this concept has been raised before, and is recognized as being constrained by methodological difficulties, such a study would be useful to staff and the public, as well as municipalities and specific interest groups. I

Mr. Steven Shrybman
Page 2

have therefore instructed staff to develop a specific scope of work for such a study, and for recommendations on how the project should be undertaken.

The government recently decided to place all private sector EFWs under the Environmental Assessment Act. This is in line with the recommendation in the 1983 Blueprint for Waste Management. The environmental assessment process allows for a full and complete review of all matters associated with the construction of EFWs. I am therefore not prepared to declare a moratorium at this time.

Again, thank you for your letter and your ongoing input into this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jim Bradley". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a cursive "Bradley".

Jim Bradley
Minister