
NEW YORK CITY
MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDY
TASK 2B
FINAL REPORT

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A COMPREHENSIVE
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR NEW YORK CITY
and
FINAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT

Appendix Volume 8

MEDICAL WASTE

August 1992

NEW YORK CITY MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDY

In the wake of public hysteria about contaminated wastes, and subsequent federal law to regulate all medical wastes, the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation selected the team of Waste-Tech and Konheim & Ketcham to undertake a plan of unprecedented scope: the definition of the sources, the quantities, the management and disposal practices of all wastes by all generators of medical wastes and a plan for their proper management. K&K produced a digest of the literature and the law, characterized through surveys and field interviews the purchases, materials management and waste collection and disposal practices of 79 non-municipal hospitals and 15 categories of non-hospital generators. K&K's engineers investigated the potential for future use all on-site hospital incinerators and autoclaves, regional disposal facilities, hauling and transfer operations and the status of remote landfills and incinerators used by New York City generators. (These were identified by examining waste manifests on file with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.) K&K was responsible for producing a "programmatic EIS" under City Environmental Quality Review of the environmental effects of the 33 management and disposal options for the non-municipal sources cited above and for 16 HHC facilities. The landmark study demonstrated that medical waste generators could significantly reduce wastes, capital and operating costs and environmental impacts. The 14 implementation measures that the HHC project team developed in consultation with a broad based oversight committee of stakeholders became a commitment of the NYC Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.