

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF STATE RULES  
REQUIRING EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR  
HOSPITAL, MEDICAL AND INFECTIOUS WASTE INCINERATORS  
Resolution No. 156/2009-10

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2009 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”) adopted federal regulations in 40 CFR 60 Subpart Ce, entitled “Emission Guidelines and Compliance Times for Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators” for existing medical waste incinerators (“new federal standards”); and

WHEREAS, the new federal standards establish lower emission rates and additional operating conditions than existing state and prior federal regulation; and

WHEREAS, the new federal standards require states to promulgate new state rules that will require existing medical waste incinerators to comply with the new federal standards no later than October 6, 2014 and to obtain USEPA approval of the new state rules within two years after October 6, 2009; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held May 25, 2010 for the "Title V" permit renewal for a medical waste incinerator in Graham, NC, and adjoining Alamance County owned by Stericycle, Inc with a public comment period extending to June 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Stericycle's annual waste incineration at its facility was reported as over 26 million pounds last year, with the potential for health impacts to residents of nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, the timing of this permit renewal is such that renewal will occur prior to implementation of the new USEPA rules by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission; and

WHEREAS, Stericycle's annual waste incineration at its facility was reported as over 26 million pounds last year, with the potential for prevailing westerly winds to carry emissions into communities in Alamance County and beyond from its location; and

WHEREAS, public concerns regarding medical waste incineration have been recently expressed by other local governments, specifically Mecklenburg County, the Town of Matthews, the Town of Stallings, Orange County, Chatham County, the Town of Carrboro, the Town of Haw River, members of the public, parents with children, the elderly, and environmental groups; and

WHEREAS, the USEPA's action effectively provided notice that emission rates and other requirements would change; and

WHEREAS, a three-year advance notice period for compliance would be consistent with USEPA's approach in regulating existing affected sources under the Maximum Available Control Technology (MACT) program; and

