

Town of Southington

Town Council

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JACK PERRY



Town Manager

ALEX J. RICCIARDONE
(860) 276-6200

September 9, 2024

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear DEEP Commissioner and Stakeholders:

We write to you today on behalf of the entire Southington Town Council. Many very concerned residents of our community have made their voices heard in an overwhelming outcry through various outlets against ReWorld Bristol, Inc.'s application to burn biomedical waste at their Bristol facility. We respectfully and urgently request the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) deny this application.

Our Town Council is troubled by the significant risks that this proposal presents to public health and safety. The incineration of biomedical waste is a process fraught with potential dangers, particularly due to the potential release of hazardous pollutants into the air we breathe. The citizens of Southington, who live in close proximity to Bristol, are justifiably alarmed about the impact this could have on air quality. This may cause negative impact on workers, emergency responders, transportation and traffic. The thought of any harmful toxins—such as dioxins, furans, and heavy metals—potentially being emitted from this facility, coupled with the facilities inability to real-time monitor such toxins drifting into our neighborhoods, is simply unacceptable and not worth any small revenues any of our communities may realize as a result.

The potential for ReWorld employees to be exposed to these toxins during the incineration process further exacerbates our concerns for those employee's well-being and their contact with others. These employees could unwittingly become carriers of harmful substances, potentially transmitting viruses or other hazardous materials to our community and beyond. This scenario is not merely theoretical; it poses a real and significant threat to the health and safety of every resident in Southington and neighboring areas.

Adding to our alarm is the fact that ReWorld currently lacks continuous emissions monitoring capabilities, as previously eluded to. Without this essential technology, there is no reliable way to ensure that pollutants remain within safe and regulated limits at all times. This lack of oversight is a glaring deficiency, and it undermines any assurances that ReWorld might offer regarding the safety of their operations. Our community cannot—and will not—accept the risk of unknown quantities of dangerous toxins being released into our environment without immediate detection and rectification.

Furthermore, it is imperative that the CT DEEP considers ReWorld's track record, which has been marred by long-standing and unresolved complaints from our residents regarding noise pollution. The incessant

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noise from ReWorld's operations has had a horrific impact on the quality of life in Southington, disrupting the peace and well-being of our community. The company's failure to address this issue speaks volumes about their disregard for the concerns of those who live near their facility. It is unthinkable to consider expanding their operations when they have yet to demonstrate being a responsible and considerate neighbor and rectify this violation.

Once again, we strongly urge the DEEP to reject this application in its entirety. The risks to public health, the potential for environmental contamination, and the ongoing negative impact on our residents' quality of life cannot be ignored. This letter is accompanied by a formal resolution from the Southington Town Council, dated September 9, 2024, which unequivocally stands against ReWorld's application to incinerate biomedical waste. The health, safety, and well-being of our residents depend on your decision.

Sincerely,

Paul Chaplinsky, Jr.
Chairman, Southington Town Council

Christopher J. Palmieri
Minority Leader, Southington Town Council

to: brent.madho@ct.gov, dave.lariviere@ct.gov, frank.p.gagliardo@ct.gov,
cc: ricciardonea@southington.org, lmartocchio@southington.org, lonezaks@southington.org

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Resolution of the Southington Town Council Opposing the Collection and Incineration of Biomedical Waste by ReWorld in the Town of Bristol

CERTIFICATION:

I, Kathy Larkin, the Town Clerk of Southington, CT, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by Southington Town Council at its duly called and held meeting on September 9, 2024, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

WHEREAS, the Town of Southington is committed to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of its residents; and

WHEREAS, ReWorld Bristol, Inc. (ReWorld), located in the neighboring town of Bristol is seeking a permit to accept and process by incineration up to 57 tons per day of Biomedical Waste (BMW) at its facility from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP); and

WHEREAS, the incineration of BMW poses potential public health risks due to the release of hazardous pollutants, which could adversely affect the air quality and overall health of residents in both Bristol and surrounding communities, including Southington; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of BMW to the ReWorld facility increases the risk of traffic accidents and poses potential hazards to transportation safety within Southington and along the routes leading to Bristol; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of emergency responders who may be called upon to manage incidents related to BMW collection, transportation, or incineration are of significant concern, given the potential exposure to harmful substances; and

WHEREAS, the impact of increased traffic associated with the transport of BMW may further strain local infrastructure and create additional burdens on the roadways shared by the residents of Southington and neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of continuous emissions monitoring at the ReWorld facility, which is necessary to ensure that any pollutants, such as dioxins, furans and heavy metals, released during the incineration process are within safe and regulated limits, and to promptly identify and address any breaches of environmental standards; and

WHEREAS, our residents have lodged many complaints with ReWorld due to the noise emitted from ReWorld's current operation, and this issue should be eliminated before any other capabilities are considered.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southington Town Council, on behalf of the residents of Southington, hereby opposes the collection and incineration of BMW at the ReWorld facility in Bristol; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southington Town Council urges CT DEEP and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) to conduct a thorough review of the potential health and safety risks associated with this proposal, including the implementation of continuous emissions monitoring, and to take the necessary actions to protect the residents of Southington and the surrounding communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southington Town Council calls upon CT DEEP and CT DPH to engage with local stakeholders, including the Town of Southington, in assessing the full negative impacts of the proposed BMW incineration, and to consider alternative waste management solutions that do not compromise public health, safety, or the environment.

Adopted by the Southington Town Council on this 9th day of September, 2024.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this 10th day of September 2024.


Kathy Larkin, Town Clerk

Town Seal

To: Commissioner Kathie Dykes (Connecticut Department Of Energy And Environmental Protection)
Cc: brent.madho@ct.gov, dave.lariviere@ct.gov, frank.p.gagliardo@ct.gov

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