

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2003 4:49 PM

Subject: BAD BOY REPORT: 2 YEARS LOCAL DUMPING OF DRUGS, BODY PARTS, XRAY PROCESSING LIQUIDS

Dear Rog & Derek;

Below you will read two irksome issues: (A) The mates only were fined a pittance of what it would cost to clean up and of the insurance costs for hospital care for those "downstream" eventually getting sick. (B) Their apology is strictly a result of getting caught.

*Have a great weekend and warmest regards to all,
Alfie*

Eddie weekly summaries 21/02/2003

Keeping you up to speed with news and events from around the world.

£100,000 fine for endangering public safety over clinical waste disposal

A waste disposal company, which boasts the NHS as a key client, has been fined over £100,000 after the Environment Agency accused it of leaving trailers filled with human tissue and syringes untreated for months on end.

The Agency recently told Chester Crown Court that their investigation into Eurocare Environmental Services had led to the discovery of unrefrigerated trucks containing clinical waste unattended for up to five months and in some instances oozing blood. In other incidents the EA said it found syringe cases and other clinical waste on the ground where the trailers had been washed.

The Newcastle based company was fined £100,000 with £114,818 costs for 10 charges. Nine of these were for the

contravention of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and one for the contravention of the Water Resources Act 1991.

The charges relate to incidents which took place between September 2000 and February 2001.

“Eurocare showed a flagrant disregard for the law and public safety,” said David Stott, Chief Prosecutor for the EA.
“Furthermore, the company’s actions in causing serious backlogs of clinical waste to build up around the country could, eventually, have led to delays in patient treatment.”

The Agency launched investigations on the company activities in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Birmingham and Wrexham, after a tip off.

The court also heard of Agency officers filming liquid waste being flushed into a domestic sewage tank at Eurocare’s Wrexham clinical waste incinerator. The company was also charged for allowing noxious and polluting matter to overflow into a tributary of the River Dee.

In a statement Eurocare said: “Eurocare fully acknowledges that certain regulations were breached when these incidents occurred over two years ago and we would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the distress caused.”

They added that they have invested £3.5 million in new plant facilities for the treatment of more clinical waste.

“We are happy with the fine given to Eurocare,” an Environment Agency spokesperson told *edie*. “It could have been higher, but overall we are satisfied with the settlement.”

Recently the Department of the Environment equipped magistrates with guidance kits on delivering effective sentencing for environmental crimes (see related story).

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