

Ushering out the old year and bringing in the New Year 2011 –

Smoke from the Tortola Dump fire

Press Coverage

Below is a collection of article links that tell the story of the latest open garbage burning episode on Tortola, and the halting progress on installation of the new incinerator. Key points:

- The BVI government acknowledges 9 open burning episodes in 2010 (Most of us are inclined to think it is more often based on smoke plumes– perhaps those were the accidental burns.)
- The currently expected target date for the new second incinerator to be installed is “after tourist season”
- The smoke event that began on December 28th was very distressful to local BVI residents and their recently constructed Division of Motor Vehicles building employees nearby.
- The BVI press has acknowledged that the smoke has also bothered St. John residents and it has become an international concern to get the BVI system up to standard.
- People in the BVI are questioning whether the new incinerator –planned and purchased a number of years ago- can accommodate the ever increasing flow of trash.
- What’s not mentioned: What kind of scrubbers and emissions controls will the two incinerators operating (old and new) have? What kind of emission controls? What kind of environmental monitoring? What kind of solid waste sorting keeps out batteries, pressure treated wood, pesticides and other toxics that may have dangerous emissions when burned?

Oct 2010

<http://www.virginislandsnewsonline.com/news/works-resume-on-new-incinerator-to-be-operational-next-year>

Dec 29th 2010

<http://www.virginislandsnewsonline.com/news/health-ministry-apologises-for-excessive-smoke-and-ash-from-incinerator>

Jan 2011

<http://stjohnsource.com/content/news/local-news/2011/01/04/tortola-dump-fire-has-st-john-residents-fuming>

<http://www.greenantilles.com/2011/01/14/new-incinerator-likely-to-improve-air-quality-in-the-bvi-and-the-usvi/>

<http://www2.bviplatinum.com/news.php?module=news&page=Article&articleID=1294365847>

<http://www.vistandpoint.com/news/local/6293-new-incinerator-to-be-in-place-by-end-of-tourist-season>

Photos of trash and incinerator:

http://bvibeacon.com/main/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2974&Itemid=26

Collated by the Coral Bay Community Council as part of the Coral Bay Watershed Management Project. For more information see www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org.