

I recently learned about problems with the Dickerson trash incinerator from a post on [sugarloafcitizens.org](http://sugarloafcitizens.org). Of particular concern was the following:

“An annual emissions test in September revealed that the incinerator had been emitting nearly double the permitted limit—and 21 times more than in tests a year ago—of the deadliest chemicals known to science, dioxin and furans.”

The post also claims that Council President Fani-Gonzalez declined a DEP briefing on the matter. And that she called for “a comprehensive, objective, and thorough analysis of all waste disposal options before we should consider any fundamental changes to the system.”

I couldn't disagree more with the Council President's position. Dioxins and other forever chemicals are extremely dangerous to human and animal health. Correspondingly, I view this as an emergency. When confronted with something this serious the appropriate response is to take action to eliminate the risk immediately, not to convene a comprehensive study that seeks to solve every problem before doing anything.

Permanently closing this facility is something that should occur under any future plan for waste management, so there's no need to delay doing so.

I'm alarmed by both the reported emissions of toxic chemicals from the facility and also the Council President's strange response.