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Based upon toxicology reports, medical textbooks reviews, and published overviews from the EPA and other government agencies (see attached overview) there is no question that long-term exposure to low doses of vaporized mercury can be harmful, especially to the unborn and children. The human fetus concentrates mercury in brain and kidney tissue where it remains permanently and causes a number of toxicities and even death. Small children likewise are more likely to concentrate mercury in the developing brain and kidneys. Adults show less effect, but likewise can be poisoned over the long term.

It is not entirely clear what a "low-dose" of vaporized mercury actually is, especially when it comes to the ability of the fetus to concentrate the metal in its tissues.

Since it is not known *how much* vaporized mercury will be released into the neighborhood and it will likely never be known; *and* the release will be **chronic and long-term**---a very serious matter indeed---one can only conclude that families living in the area for years could be at risk for poisoning.

I cannot come to any other conclusion on the matter. Logic dictates that a method has to be devised to prevent the release of vaporized mercury from any crematory located in a residential district. If this cannot be done, it will have to be located where there is no risk for long-term exposure to anyone, i.e. an unpopulated area or an area with a mobile and sporadic population. Anything less places the City of Grinnell in the untenable position of deliberately and knowingly placing the residential public at risk for chronic low-dose vaporized mercury poisoning, a position for which they will have no satisfactory defense in the case of a liability suit.

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