

County says rubbish to landfills

A special advisory group on solid waste disposal and reclamation has been studying systems across the country to come up with one suitable for Oakland County.

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy appointed the advisory council because he is opposed to opening more sanitary landfills. The group was formed in May.

James Meenahan, chairman of the committee, said their efforts have consisted of "banging ideas off the group."

Milton Handorf, director of Public Works, said the committee has also been trying to convince communities to support a county-wide trash reclamation program.

Handorf said the committee was hoping to involve 45 communities. "We

have to depend on their garbage," he said.

In May, Murphy pointed out that Oakland County generates enough solid waste to fill the Silverdome Stadium in less than one month. By 1995, he said, the county will generate 8,000 tons a day, enough to fill the stadium in two weeks.

Handorf said the group has examined trash disposal systems in Baltimore, Memphis, St. Louis, San Diego and Milwaukee, but that it was in no position to make any recommendations at this time.

He said the cost of the system could range from "a couple of million dollars" to \$100 million, depending on the size of the system and what degree of resource reclamation they wish to pursue.

The committee has already contacted Avon, West Bloomfield, Waterford and Bloomfield townships and Farmington Hills and Southfield. Handorf said they had gotten favorable reaction from each community.

The group has gotten support even though it has pointed out that costs

will rise. Meenahan said that of the total cost of waste disposal, 80 per cent accounted for collection costs and remaining 20 per cent paid for disposal costs.

"That 20 per cent figure could easily be doubled," he said.

UAW suit forces GM to pay top overtime rate

About 3,000 General Motors Corp. white-collar technical employees throughout the country are being paid time-and-a-half for overtime work for the first time, in an action linked to a federal court judgment which settled a UAW lawsuit against the corporation.

The judgment was entered by U.S. District Judge James Churchill following the filing of a stipulation in which GM agreed to pay overtime rates.

Judge Churchill's ruling and the "consent to judgment" stipulation agreed to by GM and the UAW puts the employees under provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards law which requires the payment for overtime. Previously, the corporation had asserted that it was not required to pay the overtime because the employees were classified as "professional exempt."

The UAW lawsuit had been filed in behalf of 13 draftsmen on the design staff of the GM Technical Center in

Warren. They are members of UAW Local 1869.

Their complaint charged GM with violating the federal law for many years by paying less for overtime work than the required time-and-a-half.

"This caused GM to review and change pay practices under which many employees were arbitrarily exempted from the full overtime pay provisions of the federal law because they were improperly classified as 'professional exempt,'" said Leonard Page, UAW lawyer.

Although the corporation's practice of paying less than full overtime had earlier been called to the attention of the U.S. Labor Dept., the federal agency did not act until after UAW filed the lawsuit.

Following the action, GM began paying overtime premium pay to thousands of non-union salaried workers, UAW officials said.

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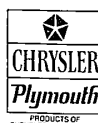
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