

# Soil boring tests due for county trash sites

Results of soil boring tests at three potential Oakland County sanitary landfill sites are nearing completion, with final action on the sites expected sometime early in 1982.

Negotiations, meanwhile, continue for the purchase of a fourth, already-tested landfill site in Rose Township.

George Schutte, supervisor of the solid waste unit of the county department of public works, said he expects the report on the \$146,000 soil boring tests to be released sometime next week.

Studied by a subcontracting hydrogeologist were sites in the townships of Groveland, Oxford and Lyon.

**THE THREE SITES** are part of a countywide trash disposal plan that is expected to cost about \$150 million, or about \$10 a year for Oakland County households. Up to six scattered landfill sites may be used, either under private, county-contracted operation, direct county operation, or a mixture of both managerial methods.

In addition, about 37 percent of the county's daily accumulation of 4,050 tons of trash will be burned in three incinerators. The plants will generate both steam and electricity from the burning trash, and will recover iron scrap from the ashes.

Schutte said the results of the engineering studies will not only determine the tested sites' environmental suitability for use as trash dumps, but also how much it's likely to cost to develop the sites.

"Is it economically feasible to use (considering the cost of developing the site and the annual operating cost? ... That's what's being studied right

now," said Schutte. "I'd like to say there's some magic number (an average cost of site development and operation) but there isn't."

"Construction at one site might be more difficult than another," continued Schutte. "Is the clay (the trash pits will be lined with clay to prevent seepage) already at the site, or will it have to be trucked in?"

"Generally, the larger sites will cost more," he said, but they will also last longer before filling up with trash.

**"WHAT WE'RE** looking for is something that will last at least 20 years," added Schutte.

The soil borings and the incinerators are part of a county disposal plan for non-hazardous solid wastes required under a 1978 state law. The state is responsible for disposal of hazardous wastes under a 1979 law.

Once the report on the site's geological suitability is compiled, it has to be open for public inspection for 90 days. It's then considered by a variety of committees before reaching the county board of commissioners. At least two-thirds of the county's total communities must then approve the plan, although Schutte said it now appears possible that the existing Southeastern Oakland County Incinerator Authority may continue independent operation.

Schutte said he expects little difficulty in obtaining community approval and anticipates only "three or four" towns will vote against the plan.

The same towns where the dumps will be built? "I guess that would have to be assumed," said Schutte.

**The three sites — in Groveland, Oxford and Lyon townships — are part of a countywide trash disposal plan that is expected to cost about \$150 million, or about \$10 a year for Oakland County households. Up to six scattered landfill sites may be used.**

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## 'Silent' tips total \$50,000

The Oakland County Chamber of Commerce "Silent Observer Program" celebrated its 10th anniversary recently, marking a decade in which some \$50,000 in reward money was paid out to informants in 142 separate cases.

Variations on the silent observer program operate throughout the country. The program's premise is that in virtually every crime committed, some otherwise uninvolved person has detailed knowledge.

Police departments in 29 Oakland County communities are active participants in the program, including those in Beverly Hills, Bloomfield and Bloomfield Townships, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Latrap Village, Oakland University, Orchard Lake, Rochester, Troy and the county sheriff.

IN ALL, some 365 silent observer tips have been received. Individual rewards ranged from \$50 to \$1,000. Only one reward per case is paid.

Individual case histories are more difficult to come by.

"We don't release information about them be-

cause, in a lot of cases, the guy who got convicted doesn't know how it happened," said Lt. James Keller of the Bloomfield Township Police Department. He added that many of the township's 15 paid cases were "cases I don't think we would have gotten tips on without the reward."

BLOOMFIELD Township's 15 paid cases rank it third on the most active community list county-wide, after Pontiac, Waterford and the sheriff's department.

Those wishing to provide information anonymously should telephone their local police departments, identify themselves as a silent observer, assign themselves a secret number which they will be easily able to remember — the chamber suggests backward versions of your social security number, telephone listing or license plate — and provide the information.

If the suspect is convicted as a direct result of the information provided, reward winners will be notified in newspaper articles citing the case.



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