

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

Once two roadblocks are moved, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners is expected to adopt the county's solid waste management plan later this month.

The 20-year plan, which proposes rubbish incineration and landfill sites, has been on the drafting table for four years.

Commissioners raised two objections and asked the Solid Waste Planning Committee to review the proposal a final time. The committee was asked to report back with its recommendations Aug. 26.

FIRST, THE board objected to the inclusion of the Weber Landfill (in Orion Township) as a 190-acre site and recommends that it be included as a 28-acre site, the acreage currently licensed by the state Department of Natural Resources.

Second, in efforts to strengthen local governmental involvement, the board asked that repre-

sentatives of municipalities have the opportunity to accompany county Health Department or Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials on daily inspections of landfills within their towns.

"We felt, as the plan stands now, that the amount of local input given was insufficient. We want to give host officials the opportunity to inspect the sites daily," said Commissioner Anne Hobart, R-Pontiac.

By law, the objections must be returned to the Solid Waste Planning Committee for approval before the plan can be adopted by the board.

DURING THE Republican caucus prior to the board meeting, Milton Handorf, director of county public works, stressed the importance of getting the plan adopted.

"We have a crisis situation in the county," he said.

"We only have three active landfills in the county and a fourth one coming up next month. If the board doesn't approve a plan, the municipalities,

SEMCOG or the DNR will do one," he added.

The plan is to provide for Oakland's non-hazardous solid waste disposal for the next 20 years. The capital cost for the entire plan is estimated at \$150 million.

ONCE THE PLAN is approved, no sanitary landfill site or other disposal facility may receive a state construction permit unless the proposed facility is indicated on the plan.

The plan calls for developing four landfills, one of which is presently under construction in Lyon Township. There will also be four energy recovery facilities (where garbage is burned and turned into steam to heat adjacent buildings), and construction of two transfer stations.

The three landfills are proposed for Holly, Orion Township and Pontiac Township. All will be privately owned.

Incinerator stations will continue to operate in the south end of the county and in Pontiac. The remaining Oakland communities will be served by energy recovery facilities.

## County board objects

# Trash plan has 2 hurdles to clear



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