

# No one wants to foot bill for toxic-waste disposal

By Suzie Rollins Ginger  
Staff writer

Each area resident generates about 20,000 pounds of solid waste and 1,000 pounds of hazardous waste annually. But no one wants to take the responsibility for getting rid of it, according to chemistry professor Paul Tomboulian, chairman of the chemistry department at Oakland University.

Tomboulian was one of 16 people who addressed Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county officials interested in waste disposal during a conference on groundwater protection at Schoolcraft College last week.

"It costs \$30 to dispose of the 20,000 pounds of solid waste and \$5 to dispose of the 1,000 pounds of hazardous waste, so you see hazardous waste is much more expensive to get rid of," Tomboulian said.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE** is defined in terms of its diverse potential on health, the environment or its chemical effects, Tomboulian said. It may be flammable, corrosive, explosive or oxidizable. It may pose adverse health or environmental risks such as causing short- or long-term toxic effects, genetic changes, cancer, birth defects and other diseases.

"Our cars produce 100 pounds of hazardous waste a year," Tomboulian said.

"But no one wants to deal with disposing of it. The most frequently used method of disposal is burying the waste in a landfill," he said, but landfills only accommodate solid wastes. Liquids must be chemically treated until they are less hazardous.

Television sets, radios, microwave ovens, lumber, bottled beverages, pottery and pesticides are just some of the many household items used regularly that produce waste, Tomboulian said.

"It has not been until the late '70s and early '80s that we became responsible for hazardous waste management," he said.

**BUT LOCAL** communities are forever fighting waste managers who want to build new disposal sites, said Eugene Jaworski, a member of the state site-approval board.

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— Paul Tomboulian  
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"Existing sites are the biggest threats to ground water. They pose more problems than proposed sites, because those must go through a long, drawn-out approval process," Jaworski said.

During the past four years, Jaworski's committee has only reviewed four sites. It granted approval to two, denied one, and it is still discussing one.

"It's a very slow process. I would like to see a change in the rules, though. I would like it if as soon as an application is filed, the local community involved is notified," he said.

Presently, local communities are not notified until the Department of Natural Resources approves the site. Jaworski also said because the applications are quite thick and it is expensive to hire engineers to draft specifics, the applications lack detail and drawings.

"So we need to get the local people together to stop taking advisory positions and dig into solutions. They should hire experts to study the economic impact of the disposal sites and have their master plans consider zoning an industrial section for disposal," he said.

## Speaker to offer stock-market tips

Richard A. Doherty, of the E.F. Hutton Company, Inc. discusses "What You Need to Know to Make Money in the Stock Market" at the next meeting of the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce.

The session is set 8-10 a.m. Tuesday at Roma's of Bloomfield, 2101 S. Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills.

To make reservations for the seminar, call the

chamber office at 335-6148 or 644-3583. The cost is \$4 for chamber members and \$5 for non-members.

Doherty's presentation is designed to help business people learn how to judge market and economic indicators, measure areas of the best returns, use market tools and choose tax advantaged investments.

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