

Guide to toxic spills aids citizen groups

By Penny Wright

A state toxic waste specialist expressed praise for the new publication entitled "Citizens Guide for Community Health Studies."

Larry Holcomb, executive secretary of the Michigan Toxic Substance Control Commission (TSCC), said the guide should relieve a lot of pent-up frustrations held by Michigan citizens.

"We think the guide is the best one in the country," said Holcomb.

Funded by the TSCC, the lengthy guide was prepared by the Michigan Department of Management and Budget with a team of technical consultants from the University of Michigan faculty and the state Office of Management and Information.

ly for citizen frustrations."

PRESENTLY SOME 850 dumps considered the most dangerous to public safety are on the priority list for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Super Fund cleanup.

Nearly 60 of those sites are located in Michigan. Three sites are located in Oakland County. Wayne County has no Super Fund priority sites.

"The fact we have so many sites across the nation that people want addressed led to the development of the guide," said Holcomb.

He related a 1982-83 incident when Macomb County residents became concerned about exposure to possible toxic substance due to nearby landfills and a hazardous waste incinerator.

"THEY CAME to us with a health survey they had done at great hours of expense of their own time," said Holcomb. "We had to call up in a few days and say, 'The way you have done the survey will not allow us to determine whether there is a problem or not.'"

A limited number of guides are available and can be obtained by writing: Toxic Substance Control Commission, P.O. Box 3026, Lansing 48909. Or call: 1-800-292-4528 in Michigan. Dr. Holcomb advised groups to share the guide rather than using multiple copies.

AIM OF the guide is to help citizen groups determine whether an environmental health threat exists at a chemically contaminated site. Users are given information about conducting a community health study and how to effectively use the findings.

Holcomb said as the number of chemical spills grows, the problem of dealing with the sites is overwhelming.

There is no agency or lab out there that can address all the sites. They don't have the funding or staff. A full epidemiological (relating to epidemic diseases) study costs one-half million dollars. The situation brings opportuni-

Chosin battle survivors gear up for first reunion

The Chosin Few, an association of survivors from the 1950 battle of the Chosin Reservoir — fought in November-December in the north Korean mountains near Manchuria — will hold its first reunion in December.

The national reunion will take place Dec. 2-7 in San Diego, Calif.

Any veteran of all armed forces who participated in the battle and interested in further information or applications to join The Chosin Few, should contact James Hughes (656-6879), Thomas Keenan (772-6085) or Thomas Tomlinson (469-5313).

Marine commandos.

It is believed to be the only U.S. association of Korean War veterans.

The Chosin Few plans to build the first national memorial to the so-called silent veterans of the forgotten war in Korea. In July, they commissioned sculptor Dr. Felix de Weldon (who designed the two Jima memorial in Washington D.C.) to design the memorial which will cost an estimated \$5 million.

The battle at Chosin pitted approximately 15,000 allied ground troops, comprised mainly of the 1st Marine Division, and a regimental combat team from the Army's 7th Infantry Division, against 100,000 Chinese 10 divisions. The enemy's intent to annihilate those units failed.

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