## Oakland cooling on Auburn Hills incinerator

Auburn Hills is still likely to get a waste-to-energy incinerator under a major policy change approved by Oakland County Commissioners.

Oakland County Commissioners.
But not as soon as expected. Furthermore, the controversial inciparator will likely be smaller than anticipated.
Then again, it could be as large, or larger, than planned if the troubled

larger, than planned if the troubled incinerator in Madison Heights can

not reopen.

Some commissioners say the incinerator may never be built. Others
say that's wishful thinking.

Triggering the diverse speculation
is a decision the Oakland County
Board unanimously approved Thursday at its regular meeting.

The board world 23-0 to divide the

previously integrated solid waste program into two phases, each with

implemented as soon as possible, commissioners said.

But its earliest likely operational date is 1985.

OTHER COMPONENTS of the \$500 million solid waste plan — composting, recycling, iandfilling and handling batteries and other hazardous household waste — are lumped in another phase to be implemented much sooner.

intraryous noisened waste — are tumped in another phase to be implimented much sooner. No schedule was presented. But officials say composting leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste court begin in the spring and the region of the program of the program of the program of the program of the board of commissioners and one of the program's chief architects. By separating into two phases, was a practical month of the program's chief architects. By separating into two phases, contained the program's chief architects. By separating into two phases, chain of the program's chief architects. By separating into two phases, the program of the program's chief architects of preceding and composting — while the chief is delayed because of permit requirements or problems related to getting support from individual communities.

Besides an air quality permit from state regulators, the incinerator needs approvals from about two thirds of the 61 municipalities in Oakland County — in the form of inter-governmental agreements—before construction can begin.

Getting the air quality permit and IGAs is expected to take six to eight months, while construction will take almost three years.

"We ddn't want to have to wait on the incinerator," explained Rewold, a Republican whose district (Oakland and Orion townships and part of Auburn Hills) is \$ botbed of opposition to the incinerator.

Commissioner Nancy McConnell, R. Bioomifield Hills, said the agreement is a practical step, "Implementing half a program is better than implementing none."

IT'S STILL THE same program, sald Commissioner Donn L. Wolf, R-Farmington Hills, "We've just divided it so we can do something with one, while waiting on the other."

developments.

Originally the incinerator was to be able to burn 2,000 tons of waste per day, with the heat generated converted into electricity to be sold to the Detroit Edison Co.

"There's no question in my mind that we'll need an incinerator," Rewold sald, "it's just a matter of how big."

Rewold said, "il's just a matter of how big,"
Other officials disagree, however, and say the incherator may have to handle 2,000 tons per day, or more, if the wastet-onergy facility in Madison Heights continues to have problems and cannot be licensed.
That incinerator — which serves if communities as the major component of the Southeast Oakland Course Passures and Recovery Authority

ty Resource and Recovery Authority

has been closed for two years because emissions did not meet state
and federal standards.

SOCRRA officials plan to make nearly \$100 million worth of im-provements. But even with that re-fitting, there remain unconfirmed reports it won't get the air quality permit needed to reopen.

SHOULD THAT happen, trash that might have been burned in Madison Heights could be incinerated in Auburn Hills.

"That's a possibility," admits Commissioner Mark W. Chester, It.
10th District (parts of Troy and Madison Heights). "But it's probable the (Auburn Hills) incinerator will be downsized, if it's built at all."

downsized, if it's built at all."

Chester, an opponent of reopening
the Madison Heights incinerator,
said various companies claim to
have — or to be close to having —
technology that could recycle trash,
thus eliminaling the need for incinerators.

If the technology is realistic.

erators.

If that technology is reliable, Chester said neither the Auburn Hills nor the Madison Heights incinerators would be needed.

she said.
Other commissioners aren't as optimistic. They don't want incinera-tion, but they don't see reliable alter-

natives.

Oakland will be a leader in the mation if it can recycle 50 percent of Ils trash, notes Commissioner Lawrence R. Pernick, D-Southfield. "No

motes Commissioner Law
control of the country has
reached that goal.
"But what do we do with the other
50 percent? With today's technology,
we can either burn it or bitury it."
On a practical note, however, delaying the inchierator may allence a
home benefit of the country has
to a specific or the country of the
standard of the country of the
standard of the country of the
Among those critics is Rochester
Hills Mayor Billie Ireland who has
implied her city would file suite! in
necessary, to block the incinerator in
neighboring Auburn Hills.

## 'Polluters pay' okayed, sent to House for review

The "polluters pay" toxic cleanup bill is now three bills, and this week it was back in the state house of Representatives for final passage.

Area senators except Richard Fessler, R-Commerce, gave the package overwhelming aupport as it cleared the upper chamber last it cleared the upper chamber last thursday. Fessler, a lame duck who didn't seek re-election, had an excused absence.

"We divided the bill by agreement," said Sen. Vern Ethers, R-Grand Rapids. That allowed him to put in his name as sponsor of Senate Bill 1020 and leave Rep. Tom Alley, D.West Branch, as sponsor of House Bill 5878, containing the remainder of the enforcement procedures.

Those two bills passed with dis-

Those two bills passed with dis-senting votes from four outstate Republican senators.

IN ADDITION, the Senate passed Ehlers' SB 981, setting up a Michigan Environmental Assur-ance Corp. It will finance "orphan

shares" — portions of the cost of cleanups when not all the responsi-ble parties can be found. The bill went to the House.

ble parties can be found. The bill went to the House.

The vote was 27-6. One nay vote came from Senate Finance Committee chair Norm Shinkle, R-Monmittee chair Norm Shinkle, R-Monmittee chair Norm Shinkle, R-Monmittee chair Norm Shinkle, R-Monmittee chair Norm Shinkle also complained that senators by assed the committee process. Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, who sponsored the original "polluters pay" measure — Scoale Bill 375 that failed in June - Sonate Bill 375 that failed in June - Sonate Bill state of the Shinkle S

proters. "I'm getting sick and tired of it."

Gov. James Blanchard called it "landmark" legislation, indicating he will sign it.

Preserved Antique Baby's Breath 4.99 Reg. August bunch a great addition to stream

THE "POLLUTERS pay" bills are designed to speed the cleanup of toxic sites while saving taxpayers billions of dollars. Key parts include:

• Giving the state Department of Natural Resources more access to public and private property and documents, the power to order cleanups of contaminated sites, and the power to levy fines.

• Creating a new Office of Environmental Cleanup Facilitation, to mediate disputes between the DNR and site owners. A panel of seven scientists would settle disputes.

• Defining shared cost responsibility if several parties are to blame for pollution at a site.

• Permitting private individuals to fite lawsuits in an attempt to force cleanup.

• Providing a plan to allow the reuse or redevelopment of a former industrial site without having to assume the cost of a cleanup.

The Associated Press contrib-uted to this story.

## Tax base sharing derailed

staff writer

Rep. William Keith will try this week to get his bills permitting business tax base sharing among schools no track after they were derailed suddenly last week.

The black caucus and Democrats from the Saghaw-Flint belt fell short lo as affort to sead Keith's bills to the Appropriations Committee. But their 41 votes showed enough strength to scare the nine-term veraran whe chairs the Education Committee. The bills were temporarily sea and the state of the

aside.
"We're working desperately to reduce the inequilies between school districts," said Keith, D-Garden City. He told the House that sharing business tax growth countywide would help close the gap between local districts which spend \$2,500 to \$8,000 per pupil.

THE STICKING point, however, wasn't tax base sharing but how keith proposed to soften the blow for areas which would surrender their commercial and industrial growth with poor districts.

Keith would reimburse the growth areas out of the \$72 million which areas out of the \$72 million which the state "recaptures" by withhold-ing their categorical aid for transportation and pensions.

"We're talking about \$72 million!" said Rep: Joe Young Jr., D-Detroit, who didn't want to give back part of the recapture money.
"It comes out of the school ald fund," said Rep. Ted Wallace, D-Detroit

tund, saud representation troit.
And one of Keith's usual allies, Rep. James O'Nelli, D-Saginaw, said, "(Growth) districts could gain more by tax sharing than they would lose through recapture."

IN THE KEY roll call, 41 voted to send Keith's bills to the Appropria-tions Committee, and 58 were op-

tions Committee, and 58 were opposed.

Voting yes were Lyn Bankes, R.

Livonia, John Bennett, D.Redford,
Makile Berman, D.Southfield, Gerald Law, R.Plymouth, and Willred
Webb, D.Hazel Park — along with
all members of the black caucus,
House Speaker Lewis Dodak,
O'Neill, Democratic floor leader Pat
Gagliardi and Appropriations Chair
Dominic Jacobett.

Voting no were Kelth, Justine
Barus, D.Westland, Jan Dolan, R.
Farmigton Hills, Mat Donasskirs, R.

Lake Orion, David Honigman, R.

Troy.

Kosteva said the Keith bills

Lordon's go to appropriations be-Kosteva said the Keith bits shouldn't go to appropriations because they're "not appropriations bills." It's unknown how much state money will be needed to reimburse the growth districts, he said, because it's unknown how many counties will volunteer for the tax base sharing nlan.

plan.

Keith said intermediate school districts expressing an interest include Kent (Grand Rapids), Midland, Ing-ham (Lansing), Jackson and Eaton.

UNDER HOUSE Bills 5885 and

Growth in commerical and in-dustrial property tax base could be shared countywide if every district agrees. One district could kill the plan at any time.

Existing commercial and in-dustrial property would be unaffect-ed. The sharing plan could not apply to residential, farming or mining property.



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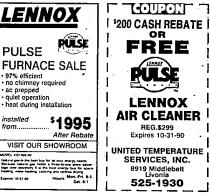
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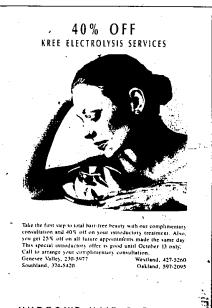
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