

# Public hearing promised on county incinerator

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

The future of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources may be up in the air.

But Oakland residents can rest assured nothing will happen on the controversial incinerator proposed in Auburn Hills without a public hearing first, according to State Sen. Mat Dunaskis, R-Oxford.

Dunaskis Thursday extracted a two-part promise from Jim Cleary, deputy director of the DNR. Nothing would happen on Oakland's proposed incinerator until there was a public hearing and residents would have some input in any restructuring of the DNR.

"That should be reassuring," Dunaskis said Friday. "Nothing will happen with the incinerator without a public hearing first."

A spokeswoman for the Oakland Environmental Protection Council, however, said her group wants more than promises.

"I have no faith whatsoever in that kind of promise," said Joan Seymour. "Restructuring the DNR would be a disaster."

Seymour, a Southfield resident, is a member of the EPC board of directors and chair of its issues committee. EPC discussed the DNR and the proposed Oakland incinerator at a meeting Thursday.

The council also authorized financial support for any recount of the Nov. 5 ballot proposal on financing the incinerator in Auburn Hills, she said.

Uncertainty about a public hearing on the incinerator, and concern about the future of the DNR, has been widespread since earlier this month when Gov. John Engler said he would reorganize the state's major environmental agency.

Among the changes the governor

envisioned is the elimination of the Air Pollution Control Commission, the agency that was to hold at least one public hearing before acting on the operating permit for Oakland's proposed incinerator.

STATE REGULATIONS call for the DNR to make a recommendation on the required permit. But the Air Pollution Control Commission was the agency that was to conduct at least one public hearing, and subsequently grant or reject the permit accordingly.

When Engler announced the com-

mission would be abolished — and replaced with the yet-to-be-formed Michigan Environmental Science Board — residents were concerned there would be no public hearing.

"You bet I was concerned," said Diane L. Pederson, head of Help Oakland Protect the Environment.

Pederson, a Rochester Hills resident, is one of hundreds of area residents who were disappointed at voter approval of the proposed solid waste program in the Nov. 5 election.

Particularly in light of the narrow margin of victory, 257 votes out

of 141,783 cast, Pederson and others — including the Oakland Environmental Protection Council — intend to continue fighting the incinerator. The hearing on the incinerator's operating permit was one of the expected battlegrounds, said Pederson. Lose that, and opponents would have one less opportunity to fight the incinerator.

She wasn't the only one concerned.

"MY PHONE RANG off the hook," said Dunaskis, referring to public reaction in the wake of the governor's Nov. 8 executive order

that would do away with the air quality commission and restructure the DNR.

"We have an active county," he said. "And people were genuinely concerned" about what the restructured DNR will look like. They're also concerned the public hearing on the incinerator would not be held.

"They don't want just a public hearing," Dunaskis continued.

"They want a hearing at an early point in the decision-making process. Nothing's worse than a public hearing before some bureaucrat who has already made up his mind, but goes

through the motions of a hearing because it's the law."

One indication of widespread concern — or rejection — of the governor's reorganization plans is discussion in the House of Representatives last week.

The House approved a resolution, No. 487, that would negate the governor's proposed DNR restructuring, and referred it to the Senate, where it remained Friday.

Dunaskis was not sure No. 487 would get anywhere. But it indicates concern about what the governor might do with the DNR, he said.

## Names women really trust.

... area residents battle for say-so

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Republicans on the House Conservation Committee want two more months of negotiations to give Gov. John Engler and environmentalists a Department of Natural Resources they all can live with.

"We've polarized," said Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, after the House voted 69-35 disapproval of Engler's executive order reorganizing water and air quality boards under DNR.

"The Senate's not going to pass it," said Dolan, a member of the Conservation panel.

Likely results: Engler's order would stand; a Democratic lawsuit would charge Engler exceeded his powers; heavily Republican areas in Oakland County would think Engler ignored them; and there would be months of inefficient uncertainty in DNR.

Under the state constitution, both chambers must disapprove an executive reorganization plan within 60 days, or the plan takes effect. Deadline is Jan. 8.

DOLAN IS joining Rep. Donald Van Singel, R-Grant, in asking Engler and other lawmakers to hold up the orders and suits and allow two more months — until March 7, 1992 — for a fresh legislative look at the problems.

The two key problems:

- Engler's argument that DNR is slow and inefficient in issuing permits. He would have work done by staff and all policy made by the parent Natural Resources Commission. (Dolan notes many Oakland politicians call DNR the "Department of No Response.")

- The environmentalists' and local governments' view that public input before a citizen board is essential. Wrote Rochester Hills Mayor Billie Ireland: "With the elimination of the Air Pollution Control Commission... residents of my community as well as citizens throughout Oakland County will be deprived of a scheduled public hearing on the proposed Oakland County incinerator."

ENGLER LAST week rescinded one executive order in the face of bipartisan opposition — the one eliminating the Science Advisory Board under the new "polluters pay" law.

An 11-0 vote in the House Conservation Committee Nov. 19 convinced him to back off, even without votes of the full House and Senate.

In hearings, EMEAC (East Michigan Environmental Action Council), headquartered in Birmingham, charged Engler's action "will change the present process of open review and public input to one where bureaucratic decisions made behind closed doors will be the basis of environmental policy."

Mushtak Abbou, MD  
Brian D. Adelman, MD  
Ebrahim Babaooff, MD  
Firooz Banooni, MD  
Danny S. Benjamin, MD  
Joseph Berenholz, MD  
Michael L. Berke, MD  
Allen Berlin, MD  
Jay M. Berman, MD  
Donald R. Blitz, MD  
Abraham Blumer, MD  
Robin A. Blumer, MD  
David M. Cantor, MD  
Martin H. Daitch, MD  
Francis D. Darling, DO  
Robert L. Dock, DO  
Allan S. Emery, MD  
Ebrahim Fayazi, MD  
Richard Fields, MD

Richard H. Goldfine, MD  
Milton H. Goldrath, MD  
Alan D. Goldsmith, MD  
Michael H. Gotlib, MD  
Gregory L. Goyert, MD  
Annette S. Greenstein, MD  
Allen L. Hayes, MD  
Leon A. Hochman, MD  
Maurine Horowitz, MD  
Jacob Kalo, MD  
Michael C. Kent, DO  
Roger M. Kushner, DO  
James E. Labes, MD  
Leslie G. Lafer, DO  
Alan C. Lakin, MD  
Edward M. Lichten, MD  
David I. Lipschutz, MD  
Andrew S. Markowitz, MD  
Jerry B. Markowitz, DO

Richard Menczer, MD  
Ira H. Mickelson, MD  
Milton L. Nathanson, MD  
Jeffrey G. Obron, MD  
Larry B. Prussack, MD  
Richard I. Reid, MD  
Michael S. Salesin, MD  
Alvin M. Schoenberger, MD  
David B. Schwartz, MD  
Alfred I. Sherman, MD  
Eugene A. Snider, MD  
Bertram J. Spiwak, MD  
Leonard B. Sudakin, MD  
Lester J. Voutsos, MD  
Jerrold H. Weinberg, MD  
Mark Werner, MD  
Debra Wright, MD  
Ronald G. Zack, MD  
Seymour Ziegelman, MD



Consider these doctors' accomplishments, and you will understand why they've earned women's trust.

Smart physicians are known around the world for pioneering gynecological laser procedures for endometriosis and other menstrual disorders. Here, surgeries using lasers and tiny scopes mean less pain and shorter recovery times for women.

In our Mothers and Infants' Center, our doctors make sure that an obstetrician, an OB anesthesiologist and a neonatologist are on-site 24 hours a day. And our physicians' skills are reflected in a Cesarean

section rate that's 15 percent below the national average.

From delivering quintuplets to providing breast imaging to tailoring oncology and psychiatry just for women, these physicians — and all our doctors — emphasize the utmost in quality and comprehensive care.

And for women, that's something you can really place your trust in. Call 1-800-233-3627 for referral to a Sinai physician.

**sinai**