

Running out of room

County cost: \$150 million

Abundance of refuse means more landfills

By TIM RICHARD

In the next year, Oakland County will move toward a trash disposal plan that will require three resource recovery centers and five new landfills.

The price tag, said County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, will be a \$150 million revenue bond issue costing an average household \$10 a year. No tax money would be used, and no federal aid is expected to be available, he added.

"We've got about 15 Silverdome-full of refuse to dispose of each year," Murphy told a packed auditorium in the County Service Center last week. "We could burn all of it, but the cost would be prohibitive to the typical county resident."

THE PLAN calls for converting one-third of the county's trash to steam or electricity and selling it.

Prospective customers, said Murphy, are the Parke-Davis plant near Rochester, the Ford plant at Wixom, the County Service Center complex itself and both business and private customers near the service center.

"What we can do is begin to burn a third of it and increase that portion as the revenues from resource recovery more and more offset the costs of incineration."

But like it or not, he said, "We need sanitary landfills."

Apparently not liking it were residents and local officials from the northern townships of Groveland, Rose and Oxford, where landfills may be located.

A COUNTY plan is required by the State Solid Waste Management Act of 1978 (Act 641), said Robert P. Allen, county civil counsel.

It deals, Allen said, only with non-hazardous wastes. Toxic wastes are a state responsibility under Act 64 of 1979.

The Oakland plan — prepared by Murphy's office, the county Department of Public Works, and environmental, legal and financial consultants — will be taken up this week by a so-called Act 641 Committee of 13 persons (see related story).

"The plan will then be made available for public inspection and review followed by a public hearing on Oct. 1, 1981," said Allen.

"After considering public comments during this interval, the planning committee will approve a plan and submit



DANIEL T. MURPHY
"We need landfills"

it to the County Board of Commissioners by Dec. 1, 1981.

"Following county board approval, the plan is then submitted to each of the municipalities for their approval."

"The county plan must receive approval of at least two-thirds of its municipalities before it can be submitted to the director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for state approval on or before July 1, 1982," he added.

MURPHY GAVE this outline of the plan to handle 4,050 tons per day of solid waste generated by Oakland's one million residents living on 900 square miles of land:

● A 1,200 tons-per-day refuse-to-energy processing plant at the 450-acre Oakland County Service Center. The plant will generate steam and electrical power for sale to the center and to nearby private and public consumers and utilities. It will also serve to recover marketable ferrous (iron) scrap from the incinerated ash.

● A 150-ton-per-day modular processing facility at Rochester for the same general purpose. "We recommend beginning negotiations with Parke-Davis in Rochester. They have indicated a preliminary willingness to enter into such negotiations, and our technical investigations show that their

energy needs are appropriate . . ." said Murphy. Target date for full operation: fall of 1983.

● A 350-ton-per-day modular processing facility at Wixom, whose customer would be the Ford plant there.

Combined, the three resource recovery facilities would recycle 37 percent of the county's trash.

LOCAL UNITS of government would continue to be responsible for their own trash collections, said Murphy. They would take them to "transfer stations" for compacting and shipping either to the resource recovery facilities or landfills.

Walter Niessen, vice president of Camp Dresser & McKee, environmental consultants, said five new landfill sites were identified with capacity for 40 million cubic yards:

- 1) Lyon Township, a new site with 300 acres.
- 2) The Lyon Development Co. site in Lyon Township.
- 3) An Oxford Township site of 235 acres.
- 4) A Groveland Township site.
- 5) The present L.E. Marlowe site in Rose Township.

Identified as transfer station sites were a commercially zoned area near Twelve Mile and Telegraph roads in Southfield and the County Center land.

SEVERAL SOUTHEAST communities — including Troy, Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Lathrup Village and the Royal Oak complex — belong to a Southeastern Oakland County Incineration Authority.

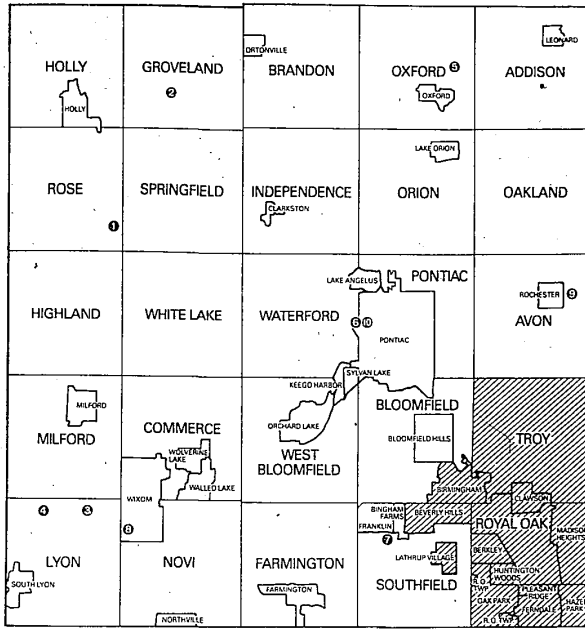
To them Murphy said, "We recognize that, unlike other county municipalities, you have established facilities for disposing of your solid waste in an environmentally acceptable manner."

"We have no reservations with integrating your system wholly into a countywide solid waste management plan."

"In time, however, our goal is to bring all county solid waste into a common disposal system."

"Finally, I'd like to emphasize that Oakland County is not about to go into the business of collecting refuse door-to-door. Our purpose is to provide only for the disposal of solid waste — as much as possible through refuse-to-energy processing."

"Collection will remain the responsibility of the individual municipality or solid waste generator."



SANITARY LANDFILL SITES

- ① L.E. Marlowe and Sons
- ② Groveland Township
- ③ Northeast Lyon Township
- ④ Lyon Development Company
- ⑤ Oxford Township

TRANSFER STATION SITES

- ① Oakland County Service Center
- ② Southfield

MODULAR COMBUSTION UNIT (MCU) SITES

- ① Ford Wixom
- ② Parke Davis/Rochester

RESOURCE RECOVERY PROCESSING CENTER SITE

- ① Oakland County Service Center

SOUTHEASTERN OAKLAND COUNTY INCINERATOR AUTHORITY

13 on committee study waste management plan

The proposed Oakland County solid waste management plan for the year 2000 is now in the hands of a 13-member group called an Act 641 Committee.

Its job will be to study and perhaps modify the plan, then recommend it for final approval by the elected 27-member Oakland County Board of Commissioners by Dec. 1.

Chief staff person is George Schutte, supervisor of the solid waste unit of the Oakland County Department of Public Works.

The Act 641 committee usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in committee room A of the circular auditorium wing of the County Service Center, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

Meetings are scheduled for March 2, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14.

Members include: From the solid waste industry: John Layman and Melvin Marlowe, sanitary landfill operators; Richard Detowski, solid waste collector and hauler; and Nick Madias, industrial solid wastes hauler.

From environmental interest groups: Nancy Kourjian, Farmington Hills, and John King, Bloomfield Hills.

From county government: Commissioner Alex Perinoff, D-Southfield.

From cities: John Lamerato, manager of the Southeastern Oakland County Incineration Authority.

From townships: Earl Borden, supervisor of Avon Township and president of the Oakland County Association of Township Supervisors.

From the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments: Patrick Brunett, manager of environmental programs.

From the public: Donald Van Zile of Bloomfield Township; Thomas Burcher, Holly village manager; and James Meenshan of Commerce Township, chairman of the committee.

Non-voting advisory members are George Karas, Dr. Harold Furlong, Joseph Neippling, Dr. Maxwell Téague, Roger Smith, Walter Tomyn, Joseph Ford and Gene Rhoton.

"Resource recovery gives something back to the community: either usable energy or fuel credits and other revenues from the sale of steam and electricity."

— County Executive Daniel T. Murphy

Dumps are disappearing but need keeps growing

As a first step in its countywide solid waste plan, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has commissioned a \$40,000 study of two landfill sites.

One is in the city of Pontiac, the other the Marlowe landfill in Rose Township.

The consulting firm of Camp Dresser & McKee has been hired to make tests of soils and ground water conditions as the growing county of one million persons and 345,000 households faces a shortage of landfills.

"THE NUMBER of sanitary landfills in Oakland County have decreased from 12 in 1953 to four today," said the board's resolution.

"Of these four, two are available only to the city of Pontiac and the 14 member-communities in the Southeastern Oakland County Incinerator Authority."

The remaining two are the Troy landfill near M-59 and Dequindre roads and the Marlowe site in Rose Township.

Unfortunately, "The Troy sanitary landfill has an estimated remaining life of one to two years, and the owners/operators of the Marlowe sanitary landfill have for various reasons indicated a desire to close" their site, the county noted.

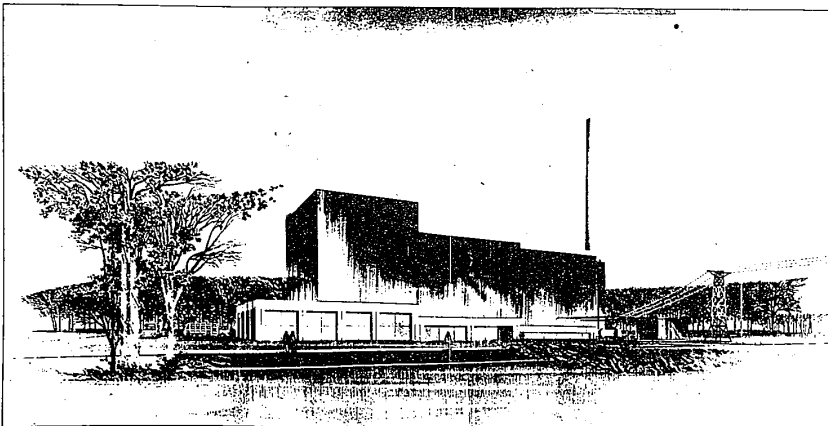
THE MARLOWE site is under con-

sideration as one of five new landfills (see accompanying story) in the county's master plan.

The county DPW staff and Pontiac commissioners have discussed possible county acquisition of the Pontiac landfill.

County officials figure they will be in a position to acquire the landfill sites in two years. The Marlowe owners' decision to close soon, however, puts the county under time pressure.

"If we're not able to own a site," said County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, "there's no way we can control a private landfill owner . . . We'll have to find a site further away, and that will cost more to haul to."



"A large resource recovery system at the County Service Center would serve the local steam market, including the Center buildings, with the excess steam converted to electricity (approximately 20

megawatts) and sold," according to Walter Niessen, vice president, Camp Dresser & McKee. This architect's sketch shows the central processing facility, which would handle 1,200 tons of solid waste per day.

SOLID WASTE/RESOURCE RECOVERY SYSTEM: PROVIDES MAXIMUM BENEFITS TO OAKLAND COUNTY

