

Too close to wells

Townships fight hazardous waste site

Opposition to construction of a hazardous liquid and solid waste disposal plant in Oakland County will come to a head Thursday when a nine-member Site Approval Board holds its organization meeting.

On hand will be officials and residents of Pontiac, Orion, Waterford, Avon and other nearby townships. They charge that the proposed site is "environmentally unsuitable."

OU signs up for evenings

Registration for noncredit evening courses to acquire employable skills in the fall term of the Division of Continuing Education at Oakland University, Rochester, begins Sept. 20. For course or enrollment information, call the division at 377-3120 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The department is in 265 S. Foundation Hall.

The Site Approval Board consists of five permanent members appointed by Gov. William Milliken and four county and local residents. The meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Pontiac Township Hall, 1827 N. Squirrel.

After its initial meeting Thursday, the Site Approval Board is expected to schedule an October public meeting. At that time, the board will expand its review of the proposed toxic waste site.

AT ISSUE is a 47-acre site at I-75 and Joslyn Road, four miles northeast of Pontiac. On the hillside location, ERES Corp. of Southfield proposes to build a toxic waste incineration facility.

The plant is expected to burn 27 million gallons of liquid waste and 56 million pounds of solid waste. It would operate 24 hours daily, seven days a week. Toxic waste would be hauled to the plant by rail and truck from all parts of Southeastern Michigan.

On July 19, the Michigan Air Pollution Control Commission, acting on advice from the staff of the Department of Natural Resources, voted condition-

al approval to ERES Corp. to emit spent gases from six incinerators within the disposal plant.

BUT RESIDENTS argue the site is close to marsh and wetlands. It is within 6,000 feet of spring-fed Lake Angelus, which feeds into a chain of seven other lakes. Ground water at the site flows toward the Clinton River watershed.

"Contamination to the wells and waters of Oakland County from plant operations and accidental spills is a definite threat," said Raymond E. Hayes, president of Lake Angelus Village. "This threat remains unanswered by ERES and the Department of Natural Resources."

"Since 300,000 people in Oakland County depend on wells for their water supply," Hayes said. "This is a vital issue which cannot be left to chance or experimentation."

Robert Wyatt of Clarkston, a supervisor in waste control for General Motors Corp., expressed concern about ERES Corp.'s safety control mechanisms. "On-site safety controls are

sketchy, but the safety of homes and people in case of catastrophe at off-site locations has not been addressed at all."

Located within three miles of the proposed toxic waste site are 23 schools and several hundred residences. D.J. Bortz Jr., president of Bortz Health Care Facilities Inc., said an evacuation plan and response services for nursing home residents in the area are lacking.

JAMES BRAITHWAITE, an engineer with Environmental Consultants Inc. of Rochester, charged that ERES Corp.'s hydrogeological data at the site is inadequate.

"Their assessment of underground and water conditions is so general," the engineer said, "as to raise doubts about claimed safety controls and monitoring in future operations."

CP asks feds to halt Algerian natural gas

Consumers Power Co. has asked the federal Economic Regulatory Administration to halt the importation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Algeria by one of the company's interstate pipeline suppliers.

Consumers Power, which serves most area suburbs, said Algerian price changes could result in additional costs of \$250 million annually for Consumers Power's 1.1 million customers if full LNG volumes were delivered. Under full deliveries, about 16 percent of Consumers Power's gas supply would be LNG.

In a petition similar to one filed by the Michigan Public Service Commission, Consumers Power requested the ERA administrator suspend the import license of its supplier, Trunkline LNG Co., and, following public hearings, to permanently withdraw the license to bring Algerian gas to this country.

THE UTILITY'S petition maintains

that deliveries of LNG, scheduled to begin leaving Algeria by tanker later this month, will seriously injure Consumers Power's customers with substantially higher gas costs.

The petition was filed in Washington. Consumers Power attorneys plan to file a similar petition with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Consumers Power has taken the position that there is no current need for the LNG.

It also argues that, because of past actions by Algeria to withhold export of the LNG in an effort to get more money for the gas, no reliance can be placed upon Algeria to comply with the terms of the 20-year contract it has with Trunkline.

THE PETITION noted that "based on events to date . . . facts demonstrate that the (Algerian) supply is totally insecure."

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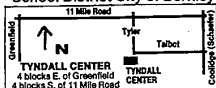
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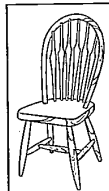
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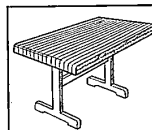
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