

Waste disposal plant in Alberta soon

by John Mitchell
(Reprinted from Canadian Science News)

A socially and environmentally acceptable site for a hazardous waste disposal plant has been chosen in Alberta. The plant will be North America's first integrated hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility.

Full citizen involvement in the site selection process was a major factor in the acceptance of a satisfactory site, says Dr. Jennifer McQuaid-Cook, Manager of Environmental Programs of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation.

The facility is located 20 kilometres east of the town of Swan Hills, which is about 200 kilometres

northwest of Edmonton. It is expected to be in operation by October, 1987.

The need to develop a publicly acceptable plan for handling hazardous wastes in Alberta became apparent in 1979, when a proposal by a private firm to build a treatment plant near Edmonton met strong public opposition.

A government task force, which included representatives of the public as well as government experts, was set up to formulate a province-wide plan for waste disposal.

The task force quickly decided that any decision to locate a waste disposal plant without winning the full approval of local citizens was doomed to failure.

"The technology of site selection is well known, but it is the sociological aspects which must be included in considering such an emotive topic as siting a hazardous waste disposal facility," says Dr. McQuaid-Cook.

An 'overlay mapping' technique was used to identify possible disposal sites. A large map of Alberta, showing rivers, lakes, towns, and highways, was used as a base. Transparencies were laid over it to indicate areas which had to be restricted for a variety of reasons.

Restricted areas included those which were too close to lakes and rivers or which were reserved for wildlife, bird life, forestry, mining and agriculture. Areas reserved for public recreation, as well as histori-

cal and archaeological sites, were similarly identified.

When transparencies indicating all the unacceptable areas were laid over the map, the remaining 'blank', or constraint-free, areas became visible.

At this stage, the task force conducted over 120 meetings with regional development associations and municipal councils across the province. All the maps of the constraint-free areas were made available for examination; public input was invited, for more detailed identification of local restrictions.

After further examination by these communities, two sites were declared free of all known constraints. The final choice of the Swan Hills site was made by the

Provincial Cabinet.

The site not only has enthusiastic public acceptance (about 35 jobs will be created at the plant), but also has natural features ideal for waste disposal.

It is relatively remote; it has no agricultural or forestry value; it is not a critical wildlife or bird habitat; and there is not nearby surface water. Best of all, the site is overlain by a 10 to 15 metre depth of dense clay-till which acts as a natural containment barrier.

The disposal facility will cover a nine-hectare area inside a 129-hectare half-sector of land. The plant will consist of a high-temperature incinerator for organic wastes, a deep well for treated liquid wastes, and landfill cells for treated solid wastes.

TELEPHONE REGISTRATION

Winter Session 1987-88

All currently registered students **must** secure their Registration materials from their Faculty office during the periods noted below.

Students who are planning on changing Faculties and/or Programs are advised that they **should** obtain their registration materials **now** from their current Faculty office. Students **may** register in their current program, and when admitted to their new program, may either cancel their previous registration and re-register in the new program, **or** they may **transfer** any eligible courses to the new program. Students changing programs **should** register in their new program as soon as they are admitted.

NOTE: Since **most** students will be registering using the Telephone Registration System, it is to your advantage to register as soon as you are permitted!

PROGRAMS:	LOCATION:	ROOM:	DURING:
Agriculture & Forestry	Agriculture-Forestry Centre	2-19	March 16 - April 10
Arts	Humanities Centre	5-20 6-7	March 16 - 20 only April 20 - 24 only
Business	Business Building	2-20	March 16 - April 30
Education	Education Building — South	833	Commencing March 16
Engineering			
Current 2nd & 3rd Year Students			
Chemical	Chemical & Mineral Engineering Bldg.	536	March 23 - 27
Civil	Civil & Electrical Engineering Bldg.	220	March 23 - 27
Electrical & Computer	Civil & Electrical Engineering Bldg.	238	March 23 - 27
Mechanical	Mechanical Engineering Bldg.	4-9	March 23 - 27
Mineral	Chemical & Mineral Engineering Bldg.	606	March 23 - 27
Current 1st Year Students	Mechanical Engineering Bldg.	5-1	Commencing March 16
Home Economics	Home Economics Bldg.	115	March 17 - April 10
Medical Laboratory Science	Clinical Sciences Bldg.	B117	Commencing March 16
Physical Education & Research			
Bachelor of Physical Education	Van Vliet Phys. Ed. & Rec. Centre	Pav-421	March 17 - 27
B.A. Recreation Administration	Van Vliet Phys. Ed. & Rec. Centre	E-401	March 17 - 27
Rehabilitation Medicine			
Occupational Therapy	Corbett Hall	316	March 16 - April 10
Physical Therapy	Corbett Hall	316	March 16 - 27
Speech Pathology and Audiology	Corbett Hall	316	March 16 - April 10
Faculte Saint-Jean	8406 - 91e rue	102B	du 16 mars au 16 avril
Science (Honors & Special)	Biological Sciences	CW223	March 16 - 27
(General)	Biological Sciences	CW223	March 16 - April 10
Graduate Studies & Research	University Hall	2 - 8	Commencing March 16
(Graduate students should contact their Departments first)			
Other Faculties:	to obtain registration information, please contact your Faculty Office after March 16.		

THE TIMETABLE WHICH CONFIRMS YOUR REGISTRATION **MUST** BE CLAIMED AT THE TIMES NOTED IN THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES BOOKLET. TIMETABLES WHICH ARE NOT CLAIMED **WILL BE CANCELLED**. ONCE CANCELLED, REGISTRATION CANNOT BE RE-INSTATED.