

World and Nation

States to create waste control plan

By GLENN O'NEAL

North Carolina is one of eight southern states working to reach an agreement for the management of hazardous wastes by Oct. 17, when Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund money discontinues for states without a waste management plan.

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Action Committee, composed of representatives from the eight states, met last Friday in Atlanta and worked on a draft for an agreement, said Carl Terry, public affairs spokesman for the EPA.

The N.C. group is working on the document and is sending copies to the other states, he said. The SARA Action Committee will meet Sept. 29 to finalize the agreement.

The governors of the states considering the agreement discussed the issue during a conference of Southern governors in Wilmington, Del., on Sept. 18 and 19.

The conference was particularly important this year because of the issue of hazardous waste, said David Prather,

deputy director of communications for Gov. Jim Martin. A multi-state agreement on the management of hazardous waste needs some work, he said.

Before Gov. Martin left for the conference, he wanted the new draft agreement ready so he could speak with the other governors, said Victoria Voight, associate attorney general for North Carolina.

Each of the eight states in EPA Region Four would have a different function in handling the hazardous waste, Prather said. North Carolina has decided to build an incinerator for the project, but a location for the incinerator has not been chosen.

The eight states discussing the agreement are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

By Oct. 17, a state must have a hazardous waste plan in effect or the EPA cannot commit Superfund clean-up money to that state, Voight said.

In North Carolina, there are negotiations with the EPA on two clean-up sites, she said. If the state does not have a waste management plan in effect, the

contracts will go on hold.

One of the projects provides for the cleanup of a number of pesticide sites in Aberdeen at a cost of \$11 million, Voight said. The other project is called the Cape Fear Wood Preserving site, with a cleanup cost of \$15 million.

The state would be required to pay 10 percent of the costs for both of the clean-up sites, she said.

Six of the eight states have signed a commitment to a regional approach, Voight said. Georgia and Kentucky have not signed a commitment, but they have been involved in the negotiations, she said.

In Tuesday's Atlanta Constitution, Georgia Gov. Joe Frank Harris said his state would sign the agreement to cooperate in the hazardous waste plan, Terry said.

Wallace Wilkinson, governor of Kentucky, has said he wants to see what comes out of the upcoming public hearings when Kentucky residents express their viewpoints before he makes any commitments, said Doug Alexander, press secretary for the governor.

Mississippi has not committed to a proposal for a facility that fits the three categories that Alabama and South Carolina have set forth for a buy-in into the agreement, Voight said. The three categories are land disposal, incineration and aqueous treatment. Mississippi has suggested building a facility but has not said what category the facility would fit, she said.

It has been suggested that Mississippi wants to build a metals recovery facility, but that use may not be accepted by the other states, she said.

South Carolina and Alabama have available landfill space, she said. "Therefore, they are key to a regional agreement. They have considerable clout in negotiations."

Congress passed the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986, Terry said. The act will require states to handle hazardous waste in their state for twenty years, he said.

"The EPA's number one priority is source reduction — to reduce waste," he said. "It is the state's decision to determine what type of facility they will have."

19 students die after school bus plummets 40 feet into pit

From Associated Press reports

ALTON, Texas — A bus crowded with youngsters on their way to school Thursday plunged more than 40 feet into a water-filled pit after being struck by a delivery truck. Nineteen students were killed and 65 other people were sent to hospitals.

Dazed students scrambled out of the submerged bus and stood on it, screaming for help. Rescuers dove in, 12 feet of water to pull out survivors and the dead trapped in the bus.

Passersby pulled youngsters out of the bus, as notebooks and school papers floated on the water. Four boats, firefighters from six departments and about 10 divers helped in the rescue.

"They were just trapped," said Al Nye, a diver who pulled seven bodies from the bus. "We had to break the glass of the windows to get in."

The driver had picked up his last student en route to nearby Mission High School when the bus collided with a soft-drink truck about 7:40 a.m. at an intersection just east of Alton, just north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

AIDS vaccine may hasten disease

WASHINGTON — An immune system desperately battling the AIDS virus may actually hasten its own death by disabling cells in the body's army of disease fighters, a researcher said Thursday.

Dr. Michael Hoffman of the Sloan-Kettering Institute said in an interview that experiments in his laboratory showed that an antibody made by the immune system helped disable key cells in the body's defensive system, thus contributing to the immune deficiency that kills AIDS victims.

Hoffman said the finding, to be published Friday in the journal *Science*, suggested that some types of vaccine against the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, that causes AIDS, could actually help the disease instead of conquer it.

"In terms of vaccination, our data provides some alarming news because you would have to realize if you immunize (with a vaccine) you also produce antibodies that might

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be rather harmful," he said.

"Among the antibodies that an HIV-infected individual produces, there are some that are harmful and actually participate in the immune system's own destruction."

An AIDS vaccine, Hoffman said, "could cause exactly what you want to prevent — immune deficiency."

U.S., USSR go to Mars — sort of

MARS, Pa. — It's official. U.S. and Soviet spacemen are going to Mars, and the Martians can't wait to greet them.

That's Mars, Pa., 16046. U.S.A. Earth.

Soviet cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev arrives in Mars on Monday, by jetliner and car, for an eight-day visit to this community of about 1,800 humanoids about 25 miles north of Pittsburgh.

Krikalev, 31, a flight engineer, spent five months on a Soviet-French Soyuz mission that ended in April. He will be joined Wednesday by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mario Runco Jr., a NASA astronaut who is awaiting assignment to a space shuttle flight.

The spacemen's mission is to teach Martian children about space and Soviet-American friendship at school lunches and assemblies.

Organizers say it's just like Martians, as some residents call themselves, to do something spacey like this.

Economy grows slowly

WASHINGTON — The economy grew at a moderate 2.5 percent pace in the second quarter, down somewhat from the first quarter but strong enough to stop any new predictions of imminent recession, the government said Thursday.

The Commerce Department reported that April-June growth in the gross national product compared with a 3.7 percent gain in the first three months. The second-quarter GNP had been revised downward 0.2 percentage point from the 2.7 percent growth estimate a month ago.

Residents seek shelter from Hugo

From Associated Press reports

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Hurricane Hugo advanced faster and with renewed fury Thursday on Georgia and South Carolina as a flood of coastal residents grabbed what they could carry and fled inland on jammed highways.

"We're not going to take any chances," said Lamar Davis, a bartender on St. Simons, an island off southern Georgia, who stole a last glance at a pounding surf before leaving with his wife and 4-year-old daughter.

The leading edge of Hugo, whose winds muscled up to 125 mph from 105 mph the day before, was most likely to hit between Savannah, Ga., and Charleston any time after 8 p.m. A hurricane warning was in effect between Fernandina Beach, Fla., and Oregon Inlet, N.C.

At 3 p.m., Hugo was 220 miles from Savannah and bearing down at 20 mph. It was expected to turn gradually to the north, according to the National Weather Service.

The timing of the landfall was critical because of the storm's tidal surge, a

10- to 15-foot dome of water that would feed a normal 5-foot high tide that peaks after 2 a.m.

"On top of that will be waves, and so (on) ... barrier islands (in) many places the buildings will be swept clean off of those islands," Bob Sheets, director of the National Hurricane Center, said from Coral Gables, Fla.

Evacuees lined up at gas stations and stripped store shelves of bottled water, bread and batteries. Officials warned coastal dwellers not to linger because gale force winds and flash floods could block escape routes. Five to 10 inches of rain is expected.

The Navy moved ships out of coastal harbors to ride out the storm at sea. Army bases in coastal states moved helicopters inland or into shelters.

In South Carolina, which was in a state of emergency, Gov. Carroll Campbell dispatched 400 National Guardsmen to assist a mandatory evacuation of coastal barrier islands and shorefront.

About one-fifth of the state's 3.1 million residents live in eight coastal

counties.

By early afternoon, the windswept streets of the resort island of Hilton Head were deserted. Stores were fortified with boards, and most homes were empty. State troopers guarded the island's entrance.

"We brought our photo albums and our important papers," said Pat Bross, who had stopped for gas while heading from Hilton Head to Augusta, Ga.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency opened shelters and advised about 142,000 people — more than 95,000 of them in Chatham County — to leave their homes. Gov. Joe Frank Harris declared a state of emergency in six counties.

The state's biggest shelters were opened at Georgia Southern College in Statesboro, with room for 15,500, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dublin, where officials said nearly 19,000 could be housed.

Coastal school systems canceled class for the rest of the week.

Hugo was upgraded to a category 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale

of strength, indicating it was powerful enough to cause extensive damage.

Only two storms of category 5 — the highest — have hit the United States this century: the 1935 Labor Day hurricane that killed 600 people in the Florida Keys and Hurricane Camille, which devastated the Mississippi coast in 1969, killing 256 and causing \$1.4 billion damage.

Meanwhile, the vanguard of 1,100 soldiers dispatched by President Bush entered the U.S. Virgin Islands at St. Croix, which was pummeled by Hugo and then hit by a looting frenzy and lawlessness.

Local police and the National Guard plundered stores with machete-wielding gangs and escaped prisoners, creating "chaos and near anarchy," according to Adm. William Crowe.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the situation had improved.

The Virgin Islands was declared a disaster area, which entitles victims to receive loans for rebuilding and other federal relief.

Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman supports halt of weapons sales

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Adm. William Crowe Jr., retiring chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called Thursday for an end to sales of assault weapons and also said the nation "might consider doing unusual things with the military" to win the war against drugs.

"If we want to fight it, and we want to whip it, we want to prevent it, I would suggest that it does require unusual measures," Crowe said in a wide-ranging interview with news service reporters.

President Bush has banned imported assault weapons but has allowed sales of U.S.-made versions to continue.

Saying the nation has never "seen the fiber of our society eaten away by an insidious, uncontrollable threat," Crowe suggested that in the anti-drug fight America might want to use the

military in new ways. "That doesn't appall me," he said.

He said he could not outline the Pentagon's role in great detail, noting the military's plans were currently being worked out at the command of Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

But he said U.S. forces will not be drawn into anti-drug combat overseas, and that Pentagon officials are not interested in shooting down unidentified aircraft suspected of ferrying illicit narcotics into the country — a possibility suggested by some in Congress.

Crowe said he finds the drug threat so severe a problem he could foresee an expanded role for the U.S. military overseas in fighting international drug traffickers.

"Perhaps that function will grow," Crowe said of the use of military trainers and advisers in the Andean nations

under Bush's anti-drug strategy. "If what we are doing now is effective, they may want more of it."

On the domestic front, Crowe cited several areas where the military role can be expanded in order to fight the flow of drugs across U.S. borders.

"If we don't have control, it's our own fault," the admiral said in an interview with The Associated Press and Reuters.

Crowe is scheduled to retire Oct. 1 after 43 years in the military. The 64-year-old former submariner is wrap-

ping up two terms as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he served as the principal military adviser to the president and as the Pentagon's top military leader.

Crowe said the nation's civilians must consider curbing some of their beloved freedoms if the drug problem is to be eradicated.

"Certainly if the threat is as grave as many people picture it to be, the United States can't fight a threat that serious and be normal," he said.

Crowe said certain elements in our

society "want drugs to go away, but they don't want the quality of their rights eroded."

The admiral, asked about the proliferation of guns in society, said, "I've never objected to measures that make you register your guns. I think the most reasonable position seems to be that we should generally know where the guns are, and who owns them, and if you own a gun you shouldn't insist on owning it clandestinely," he said.

Asked if he believed that the sale or purchase of assault weapons should be

allowed, he responded, "I don't think so."

Asked which rights American must think about curbing, Crowe shot back, "Search and seizure. The most simple one is random drug testing ... that is what has allowed us to bring down the usage so heavily in the military."

On cutting the amount of drugs entering the nation by air, Crowe said he believes it is "perfectly proper" for pilots flying in from the Bahamas to file flight plans and to be heavily fined if they don't.

The conference postponed any action on the report — and any recommendation to Congress — until its 28 judges reconvene in March.

The committee recommended that states enact laws to limit death row inmates to two rounds of appeals in state and federal courts.

One round would challenge a verdict directly; a second would be based on alleged violations of the condemned individual's rights.

The current system permits successive rounds of appeals.

Proposal suggests shorter death penalty process

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — A committee appointed by Chief Justice William Rehnquist called Thursday for streamlining death penalty appeals to assure swifter executions, but only after condemned murderers get more legal help.

The proposal was promptly denounced by civil liberties lawyers who accused Rehnquist of stacking the committee.

"They want to be able to kill more people faster," said Mary Broderick of the National Legal Aid and Defender

Association.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Lew Powell, who heads the committee, said, "The hard fact is that the (capital punishment) laws of 37 states are not being enforced by the courts."

"I respect those who argue for outright abolition of death punishment, but it seems irrational to retain the penalty and frustrate its fair implementation."

Ironically, Powell said he would vote to abolish capital punishment if he were a state legislator, contending, "It has

not deterred murder."

The United States has the highest murder rate of any nation and is the only democracy that has the death penalty, he noted.

Powell said the aim of his committee's report is to reform a system that encourages endless legal maneuvering, years of delay and frenzied, last-minute moves to stave off execution.

The committee report was submitted to the U.S. Judicial Conference, the policy-making arm of the federal courts.

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. . . to be continued

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Police

making procedures."

The entire grievance process is weighted against the employees, Edwards said. Administration officials team up to keep officers' complaints from reaching upper-level officials, she said. Edwards also claims that University police administrators practice reprisals on officers who file complaints or try to talk to upper-level officials.

"They're doing everything they can to make me upset, to make me quit, to make me get violent," she said. "They've been doing everything they can to make things bad for me."

Edwards said she didn't believe the

present situation could change with the present administration.

"Nothing will change until we have somebody in the administration who cares about the officers themselves who do the work. We just want someone who will understand our problems and listen to our side."

Officers can't get their complaints heard by upper-level administration officials, forcing officers to take these matters to the media, Edwards said.

"Everything needs to be so public because (Chancellor Paul) Hardin and Tuchi have their doors closed to us. They only hear one side of the story —

the administration side. So we have to go to the media to get our story out. There are problems which should catch their attention, but haven't so far."

Edwards said that she had tried repeatedly to meet with Tuchi to have her grievances heard, but that they had never met.

Tuchi said that he had heard reports that Edwards wanted to meet with him, but that she had never shown up for the appointment. Tuchi would not comment further on the Edwards case.

Much discontent exists in the University police department, Edwards said, but most officers won't file a grievance because they know it's a hopeless process.

"Everything is blamed on the officers. We need new management. All of the officers agree we need a new administration, and a new system for resolving internal grievances."

Edwards has employed a lawyer to represent her since 1987, even though it strains her income.

"It's a struggle to stay in the fight, but it's worth it. All I want is to be treated like a human being, but you don't get that unless you're a supervisor."

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