

List of waste treatment sites picked

By JEANNIE FARIS
Assistant State & National Editor

The Hazardous Waste Treatment Commission announced its list of 139 possible sites for North Carolina's hazardous waste treatment Wednesday, and will narrow them down to 10 to 25 by February.

The N.C. General Assembly ordered the commission to select a site by April 1, but the commission cannot meet that deadline because of the large number of sites it must evaluate, said Alicia Ferdo, project manager of PEI Associates, the environmental consulting company compiling the list.

Construction of the site should begin by 1988, and Orange County is a possible host for the facility. The commission has nominated a site

about half a mile from Interstate 85 and U.S. 70, Ferdo said. She said she could not speculate on which sites are particularly good candidates for the hazardous waste treatment.

Land will be chosen for the chemical treatment plant and incinerator by early summer, and it will not receive radioactive chemicals or PCBs, Ferdo said. PCBs are carcinogenic materials. Only hazardous chemicals that are explosive, ignitable, corrosive or toxic will arrive for treatment.

This single-treatment site will be a safe alternative to the current process for disposing of hazardous waste, she said, because it will provide strict, uniform regulation. "Individual industries are currently

treating and storing their own waste on site," she said. "Now there will be a permanent facility to do this."

Because there are so many possible sites, there has not been much opposition from communities near the 139 candidates.

"At this point, there are too many sites to get the public into a state of confusion. We want to keep them informed and involved," Ferdo said.

PEI chose the sites with two methods, she said. They first asked the N.C. Chamber of Commerce for all property zoned for industrial use. From that list, they chose sites within 25 miles of an interstate. This was an important criterion because easy access to the site is important when transporting hazardous waste, she said.

PEI also chose sites with at least 50 acres of land and access to natural gas, which will be the cheapest way to run the plant, she said.

These criteria produced a list of 257 possible sites, which PEI narrowed to 131 through evaluation based on state and federal regulations, Ferdo said.

For a total of 139 sites, PEI added eight to the list with another method of selection, which evaluated state-owned property of at least 50 acres.

When further narrowing the list, the commission will consider the site's distance from surface water, area population, the absence of institutions within a quarter of a mile and other geographical requirements.

Town may permit Greeks' renovations

By MICHELLE EFIRD
Staff Writer

Kappa Delta sorority and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity may soon be permitted to put additions and make improvements on their houses, if the town council approves some changes to its development ordinance.

Both organizations petitioned the board of adjustments last June for the changes, but the board denied their requests because the buildings are nonconforming uses according to the ordinance.

The buildings violate the town's land-use ratio, which relates maximum floor area to the size of the lot on which the buildings sit. The renovations would increase that floor area further.

Chapel Hill's policy now is not to approve additions to buildings which already do not conform to the development ordinance.

At Tuesday's meeting, council discussed four possible amendments that would allow needed constructions to older nonconforming buildings.

■ Adopting an amendment to increase the authority of the board of adjustments to grant variances for nonconforming buildings, either existing or proposed.

■ Adopting an amendment to increase the authority of the board of adjustments for granting variances for nonconforming buildings, but only within certain zoning districts.

■ Adopting an amendment to

delete floor area from the definition of "nonconforming features."

■ Adopting an amendment to permit the Council to make modifications of building regulations when considering renovation requests for buildings which have special use permits.

Council favored, and mainly discussed, the fourth option for granting construction permits for nonconforming buildings.

Under that plan, special use permits would be granted only for existing buildings, not for proposed projects.

Chapel Hill

"These people are usually your higher-income families," Luger said. "Hence, the notoriety of the high cost of living in Chapel Hill."

Even though the housing market boomed between 1982 and 1984, greatly increasing the number of units available and theoretically reducing demand and cost, the cost-of-living index for housing in Chapel Hill remains quite a bit higher than the national average, an American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association report shows.

In the second quarter of 1985, the median value of a one-family home in Chapel Hill in 1980 was \$80,400; the national median value was \$67,800.

"The slow development of the housing stock in Chapel Hill caused

David Nail, a representative from the Alumni Advisory Corporation which helps with the upkeep of sorority and fraternity houses, urged members to amend the ordinance so his group could help bring the houses up to par.

While members agree that it's a good idea to limit special-use cases in future development, there's an unwritten notion that the city should get rid of buildings that do not conform to zoning, council member Nancy Preston said.

"I think we are encouraging the deterioration of older buildings in

town by saying nonconformities are a no-no," she said.

Council member Arthur Werner said that in the future, if one developer was granted a special use permit, it could lead to the council indiscriminately granting them and getting away from the whole reason that the town has building regulations.

"I am concerned that a developer may come in and present credible arguments to violate present (land-use) ratios," he said.

The issue was referred to Taylor for further study.

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demand and prices to shoot up drastically," Luger said. "Now the gap between supply and demand is closing, but the Chapel Hill housing market is so homogenous that the median prices placed on housing remain high."

Squeeze at the schools

Unfortunately, some of the elementary schools here are becoming overcrowded, leaving teachers no choice but to hold extra classes in mobile home trailers.

Janet Perry, registrar for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, said there has been only a gradual increase in student enrollment over the past five years — two or three percent annually — but that most of it is in the lower grades.

"Right now, we have an overcrowding problem at three elementary schools in our school system," Perry said. "I think it's a direct result of growth in the area, which is bringing young families to Chapel Hill and Carrboro."

Carrboro Elementary School, Frank Porter Graham Elementary School and Elizabeth Seawell Elementary School are the schools at which the overcrowding is most noticeable, Perry said.

"These families have young children, so the overcrowding is seen at the lower levels of the school system," she said. "The older families that come into Chapel Hill seem to have a fairly rapid turnover rate in the school system, meaning they only stay for a year or two."

Attackers kill 12 at home of S. African rebel's father

From Associated Press reports

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Assaults burst into a home in a black township near Durban on Wednesday and opened fire with automatic weapons, killing 12 people. Seven of the victims were children.

Officials of the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid coalition accused the Zulu movement Inkatha of attacking the home of Willie Ntuli, father of a prominent UDF member, in revenge for recent killings of Inkatha followers.

Drug testing for trippers

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Department will impose a broad random drug-testing program for the aviation industry, propose similar testing for railroad employees and test 26,500 of its own workers, Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole said Wednesday.

Dole said in an interview that random testing for railroad workers would have to be approved by Congress, but that the Federal Aviation Administration will require such testing for commercial pilots and flight crew members through regulatory action.

News in Brief

Waite continues hostage talks

BEIRUT, Lebanon — An anonymous caller said Wednesday that a West German was kidnapped overnight, the second German abducted in Beirut since the arrest in Frankfurt of a Lebanese on charges of hijacking a TWA jetliner in 1985.

Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite met with pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem extremists in what was apparently a marathon negotiating session aimed at freeing U.S. hostages Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, who were kidnapped in 1985.

A tiger on his tush?

WASHINGTON — The State Department refused Wednesday to confirm or deny a published report that Secretary of State George Shultz has a tiger — the mascot of his alma mater Princeton University — tattooed on his left buttock.

"I'm just not in a position to comment," said State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley.

IPE sponsors speakers

The UNC Institute for Private Enterprise will continue its "Venture Forum" series with a presentation by two area entrepreneurs Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Kenan Center.

The presentation, which is open to the public, will feature Milton Bates, president of Medical Products Search Services, and Jack Hunnell, of Triangle Bio-Medical Services of Durham.

Bates' presentation will concern the introduction of new medical products into the market. Hunnell will discuss development of supplies for analyzing tissue structure, and the introduction of these supplies to the market.

The "Venture Forum" program is a series of discussions and presentations by area entrepreneurs with business plans.


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