

STATE and NATIONAL

Hazardous-waste facility could land in Orange County

By YANCEY R. HALL
Staff Writer

Some property in Orange County is included in the 2 percent of N.C. land still under consideration as a construction site for a hazardous-waste chemical facility.

The Hazardous Waste Management Commission is considering land found in 28 counties for the new facility. The N.C. legislature approved a hazardous-waste agreement in December with four other states, requiring North Carolina

to build an incinerator, a solvent recovery facility and a small landfill for disposal of the new facilities' byproducts.

According to Alvis Turner, chairman of the commission and professor in the UNC department of environmental science and engineering, the commission and PEI, a Durham consulting firm, examined four out of 18 selective criteria to determine a suitable site for the facility. The decision reached to eliminate 98 percent of N.C.

land was made on Tuesday.

"Orange County is not in the lead, all counties are equal," Turner said. The remaining 14 criteria will be applied to determine an appropriate site, and the facility will dispose of over 100 different chemicals from hundreds of industries across the state.

"Ninety-five percent of all hazardous chemical waste generated in N.C. annually is treated on the property where it was generated and is not transported offsite," Turner said. This facility will treat the remaining 5 percent, currently being shipped to South Carolina and Alabama.

The 18 selective criteria are being applied in the screening process to

determine sensitive land areas. The criteria include any significant archeological sites in the area; proximity to state-owned lands such as prison property; and proximity to interstate highways, Turner said.

Many environmental groups are opposed to the facility due to the risks from incineration and the landfill. Bill Thomas, chairman of the N.C. chapter of the Sierra Club, said that incineration and landfills are not adequate solutions to the problem of hazardous waste.

"The incinerator has to be run at just the right temperature with the right amount of oxygen," Thomas said.

According to Thomas, unknown materials are fed into the incinerator in

"packages," which could cause an explosion, although the chances of this happening are highly unlikely.

"The emphasis should be on recycling and reduction of waste at the source," he said.

The proposed facilities' safety factor will be a primary concern according to the commission. "The commission must be able to demonstrate that the risk associated with the facility will be one out of a million for the lifetime of the most exposed individual," Darrell Hinnant, executive director of the Hazardous Waste Management Commission, said.

If the commission cannot meet this standard, the facility will not operate,

Hinnant added.

"Other chemical companies don't have to demonstrate this level of risk," Hinnant said. Many of the companies use one out of 1,000 as an acceptable level of risk.

Hinnant said the commission was leaning toward a combination of a wet scrubber and dry scrubber for the incinerator. Scrubbers are devices designed to filter many of the byproducts produced by incineration.

The next step facing the commission is to examine the geological factors in each of the 28 proposed sites. Hinnant said the commission would have two sites chosen by May 1.



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East Germans fear higher unemployment

From Associated Press reports

EAST BERLIN — Farmers vowed to drive their tractors through East Berlin, and telephone workers on Wednesday called a strike as East

Germany's new leaders tried to find a formula for unity with West Germany.

An economic institute predicted 1.5 million East Germans would be out of work in five years unless the country

saw a spurt of growth after merging with its wealthy Western neighbor. According to official figures, about 70,000 East Germans are jobless now.

Major parties said Wednesday they were close to agreeing on a blueprint for East Germany's future.

Prime Minister-designate Lothar de Maiziere, the conservative Christian Democrat leader, held more talks with

the left-leaning Social Democrats on ways to dismantle the nation's 4-decade-old socialist system.

Social Democrats want to retain a safety net of social programs to ease the withdrawal pains of East Germans dependent on heavy subsidies.

De Maiziere is seeking a quick shift to a market economy and a fast merger with West Germany.

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Army sergeant faces charge of murdering Panamanian

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — An Army paratrooper has been charged with premed-

tated murder and aggravated assault stemming from incidents during the U.S. invasion of Panama, Army officials said on Wednesday.

The soldier is 1st Sgt. Robert Enrique Bryan, a member of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment with the 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, N.C., according to Army spokesman Maj. Joe Padilla.

Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the maximum penalty for premeditated murder is death or life imprisonment, dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and reduction in rank.

Bryan, 42, was born in Panama and deployed with the 82nd Airborne in the Dec. 20 effort to oust Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, Padilla said.

The soldier is not being held in detention and is being represented by a military lawyer, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said Bryan was charged with the murder of an unidentified Panamanian man, allegedly by shooting him with an M-16 rifle on or about Dec. 23 at or near Madden Dam, which is outside Panama City.

The charges came about as a result of an investigation by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, the spokesman said.

Padilla said he did not know if any investigations had been undertaken by the CIC of other possible allegations of military misconduct during "Operation Just Cause." "This is the most serious (action) thus far," Padilla said.

"We don't really know how many investigations of a serious nature" the CIC may have undertaken because the investigation command doesn't release such information, he said.

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Business from page 1

William Perreault, associate dean for academic affairs in the business school said: "A lot of people came at this thing with a lot of ideas about where the school should be. Unfortunately, there is not a perfect site for a facility of this size. Any available space on this campus has several drawbacks."

The General Assembly appropriated \$15 million to fund the building in 1989. Half was given that year with a promise that the additional \$7.5 million would be allocated later. The first million was authorized for planning and architectural expenses.

In addition to these funds, \$5 million was donated by the William R. Kenan Charitable Trust. Another \$5 million or \$10 million will have to be raised from private donations.

Census from page 1

bility as citizens and fill them out and return them."

Jones said, "As far as I know, the response has been pretty good."

Leach said she had received 16 responses from the 21 residents on her hall.

Joe Tarlton, a sophomore from Greensboro, said he was not planning to complete the census form, but was contacted by a representative from the Census Bureau. "It had like 25 questions, and I didn't think they could track you down."

Steve Guarracino, a sophomore from Greensboro, also received the long census form. "For people our age, the questions weren't pertinent," he said. Accurate records of the population are important, though, he said.

Wilson Chewning, a freshman from Richmond, Va., said she had completed her census form. "I think it's good to know how many people of what race are living in what districts to help with voting," she said.

Denise Hart, a sophomore from Kernersville, said, "I do think it's important that everybody do it. It's only a few minutes out of your day."