are basically wrapped up," said this (See C... , 6A)

Rollins incinerator efficiency doubted

By BOB ANDERSON
Environmental editor

It is "highly doubtful" that Rollins Environmental Services can safely operate its incinerator to burn PCBs on an ongoing basis, a group of LSU engineers say in a study of the incinerator located on Scenic Highway.

The incinerator in which Rollins wants to burn up to 2,500 pounds of PCBs an hour is old, has out-of-date controls and barely meets minimum federal standards, according to an investigation by LSU's Hazardous Waste Research Center.

Although the incinerator can probably be made to meet the efficiency required by the Environmental Protection Agency during a test burn, it is not likely to be able to continue "safe operation and complete destruction of PCBs" on a long-term basis, the engineers state.

The report, contracted by the city, describes a number of problems with both the incinerator and the hazardous waste site in general.

The incinerator's "scrubber system is not designed to remove unburned organics," according to the report by the LSU engineers.

Incinerator upsets in which the flame goes out are highly probable and "emissions of hazardous material wi[ll] likely be greatest during these upsets" the report states. No stack sampl[ing]

(See **INCINERATOR**, 6A)

Incinerator

(Continued from 1A)

will be done during these upsets.

The report also says that Rollins will not have an ongoing program of monitoring for incompletely burned PCBs that leave the incinerator's stack.

"Once the test burn is completed, there is no ongoing obligation or intention to monitor for non-combusted PCBs or the products of incomplete combustion," according to the report.

The controls for PCBs, according to the report, "are at best marginal and cannot be considered as state-of-the-art . . . ."

Darrell Trent, chief executive officer of Rollins, on Monday described the incinerator as the best in the nation.

Rollins maintains it can burn PCBs at the site without posing any health threat to the Baton Rouge area.

Trent said the safe disposal of PCBs is important to the state and the nation, a point with which the LSU report agrees.

But it goes on to state that there is "not much margin" between Rollins' "proposed operation conditions and minimum EPA standards."

The report also says that it appears that Rollins has not formally completed a fault-tree analysis, in which it identifies the things that could go wrong with the incinerator and computes the risks involved and how to deal with each problem.

"Strong odors are evident," at the site, the engineers said, adding that the "general appearance of the incineration facility is poor," and "housekeeping is inadequate."

Among the more technical comments, the engineers stated that the "susceptibility of the rotary kiln to temperature cycling" may be a "serious problem."

"The liquid PCB feed mixture must have the correct viscosity for proper atomization pressure and maximum incineration efficiency," the report says. "This factor has not been addressed in the proposal or operating procedures."

On the positive side, the report states that Rollins' technical staff seems to be well-qualified and knowledgeable.

At present, the company is monitoring everything identified by EPA.

The report suggests that Rollins needs to install on-line computer monitoring and controls. It also should update, replace and retrofit older equipment and upgrade housekeeping.

The engineers also suggest that Rollins conduct more monitoring and discontinue burning during moderate to severe atmospheric inversions.

Tom Blank of Rollins said Tuesday night that it is an "excellent report" and Rollins will consider implementing LSU's suggestions.

He said Rollins wants to meet with the LSU engineers and obtain more details. He said Rollins is not sure the technology exists to do some of the things that the report suggests.