

# Lafayette's landfill crisis won't be state's last

By BOB ANDERSON  
Environmental editor

Louisiana, like most of the rest of the country, is facing a garbage crisis as current landfills fill up and neighbors oppose proposed new sites.

The number of landfills across the country has been cut by two-thirds in the last decade, and the current number is projected to be cut in half in the next five years. Meanwhile, the country is producing 300 billion tons of garbage a year and that amount continues to grow.

Louisiana's solid waste problem was one of the first major issues tackled by the Department of Environmental Quality when the new administration took over seven months ago.

One of the initial decisions Tim Hardy had to make, as assistant secretary in charge of solid and hazardous waste, was whether to give the Lafayette landfill yet another extension of its operating permit. He believed the landfill needed to be closed for environmental reasons, but there was no other place to send the garbage and he didn't want it causing a health problem by piling up on the streets of Lafayette.

"We can get ourselves into real trouble when we have to deny a permit

for technical reasons," Hardy says. "If there is no other place for the solid waste to go, then you have a crisis. I'm damned if I do, I'm damned if I don't on making permit decisions on sanitary landfills."

In the Lafayette case, Hardy was forced into a decision he "had some philosophical problems with." He allowed Lafayette to take its trash to an unpermitted dump in New Iberia, with the understanding that the disposal fees would go toward the proper closure of that site once a proper site was permitted.

"I learned very early that in the solid waste area, we could very easily be operating in a crisis mode," Hardy says. "Lafayette is not the only place that is happening."

What Hardy and DEQ Secretary Paul Templet have done to try to fight their way out of the "crisis mode" is to promote recycling and, in cases where new landfill permits are sought, make it a requirement in order to get a permit.

The recycling programs usually require people to separate their garbage, putting paper in one can, metals in another and other trash in a third. Ideally, people also would separate glass and plastics, but Hardy says that if the program gets too

complicated or too burdensome it won't work.

"We're running out of space," he says. "We have too much going into landfills."

DEQ is seeking to get communities to reduce the amount they are putting into their landfills by 25 percent within three years, thus increasing the life of those landfills.

Meanwhile the cost of land filling is going up sharply, not just because of an increase in the price of land and labor, but also because DEQ is now requiring double liners and leachate collection systems beneath landfills.

Too much hazardous material goes into landfills to continue to take a chance with groundwater contamination, Hardy says.

Tests of leachate collection systems at newer landfills reveals hazardous chemicals, according to Joey Hebert of DEQ.

Parish governments, upon whom most of the additional costs fall before being passed on to citizens, are concerned about the new programs, but are taking a "wait and see attitude," according to James T. Hays, executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

"There seems to be an air of cautious optimism that the rules, if enforced

equitably, will improve the environment of the state," he says. "There is also an underlying fear that new costs are going to add to the mandated burden on parish governments."

The initial reaction of parish and municipal associations to DEQ plans were that the "aims and objectives seemed to be overly ambitious as to increased costs of landfill disposal, abandonment of waste to energy programs and unrealistic goals for the recycling program," Hays said. "Objections were voiced as to increases in fees for permitting landfill sites."

Environmentalists take a more positive view of the new DEQ policies. DEQ is making great strides in the area of recycling by requiring local governments to come up with recycling programs before they can obtain landfill permits, says Darryl Malek-Wiley of the Sierra Club.

"Recycling is one area where we're really starting to see some movement," he says. "It's one of the strong points of the new administration."

There's also a new awareness across the state that "when we throw it away, we're not really getting rid of it, but just moving it somewhere else," Malek-Wiley says. The garbage barge helped to

make people realize that.

South Louisiana is not geologically suitable for landfills, whether they are solid or chemical, he adds.

"Landfill space is already a crisis around the state and it's just going to get worse," says Eloise Wall of Citizens for a Clean Environment. "I'm glad to see a DEQ administration that cares" and is requiring recycling programs to help solve the problem.

Henry Graham of the Louisiana Chemical Association says DEQ may be getting ahead of itself in its recycling requirements.

"We don't even have mandatory garbage pickup in this state," he says. "Some 20 parishes don't have required garbage pickup."

Hardy agrees mandatory garbage pickup is needed, but says the fact that a few areas don't have it is no reason not to go ahead with recycling where possible.

DEQ has even started a paper recycling program in its own office, which Templet hopes to expand to all of state government. He projects a savings of \$250,000 a year to taxpayers.

Though solid waste is a problem and groundwater must be protected, proposed new solid waste regulations go too far in some areas, Graham says.

The tendency by DEQ is to make solid waste regulations as stringent as hazardous waste regulations. Certainly there are hazardous wastes that get thrown away in household garbage, "but let's be pragmatic," he says.

"We are concerned about his (Templet's) attempt to require a 25 percent solid waste reduction, which we feel is totally appropriate for municipal waste, but not so appropriate for industrial waste," says Emily Stich of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry. "It doesn't take into account that industry has already been reducing, because waste represents lost resources and long-term liabilities. Industry has been reducing waste of all types for years."

However, some municipal waste recycling is necessary, she says.

"We don't want to penalize companies that have already done a lot to reduce waste," Hardy says, adding that their past reductions will be taken into consideration.

Templet sees recycling and waste reduction by individuals, industry and government as the keys to a clean environment in the future.

"We can't just keep throwing things away," he says.

## Waste

CONTINUED FROM 1A

permits until a decision is made on whether to grant a final permit.

There also has been concern within the agency and industry that failure to meet the congressional deadline on permits would leave the state in further jeopardy of losing its federal authorization to handle hazardous waste matters in Louisiana. That also would mean the loss of federal funds that go a long way in operating the current state program.

"It's very important that they don't lose that program," says G.W. "Gerry" Daigre of Dow Chemical. "It would complicate getting a permit."

It would mean Louisiana industries would have to deal with EPA in Dallas, which is not attuned to the particular needs and problems of Louisiana industry, Daigre says.

Hardy says EPA is aware of DEQ's problem meeting this year's permit deadline, and he thinks, but cannot guarantee, the federal agency will be satisfied if the permits are undergoing hearings by the deadline.

If the permit deadline is not met, EPA doesn't have to take away the state's authority. It could take the option of cutting some of DEQ's funds or could go the other way and provide DEQ with personnel to help in the permitting process, Hardy says.

Karen Brown says EPA is aware of the state's problem and failure to meet the deadline should not have "a significant impact" on the state's authorization to continue to run the program. That is because the state is making some good decisions and appears to be proceeding as rapidly as possible, she says.

DEQ will be faced with a similar deadline again on Nov. 8, 1989, when a decision on incinerator permits is due. To do the permitting job adequately, Miller says he needs to add 10 people to the permitting section.

The EPA report, which was published in July and covers the period Oct. 1,

1987 through March 1, 1988, questions not only whether the state can meet this November's deadline, but also how the state has conducted inspections and enforcement actions in the past.

Hardy says he had similar questions upon taking office, but believes the division is improving rapidly and field people are excited about the new enforcement attitude.

The report goes into detail on what it indicates are inadequate enforcement activities. However, after a meeting with the new administration, Allyn M. Davis, director of EPA's regional Hazardous Waste Management Division, says in a letter to DEQ Secretary Paul Templet:

"The corrective action measures being initiated by LDEQ appear to be sufficient to rectify the problems identified."

Among the problems cited was DEQ's handling of a case involving a company's failure to inspect emergency shutdown controls on its hazardous waste incinerator, which EPA said is a Class I Violation. Failure to make sure such controls are operating properly is "a serious violation of requirements central to the protection of public health and the environment," the report states.

Only two of the five high-priority violators revealed by EPA "met timely and appropriate enforcement" from the state's hazardous waste division, the EPA report states. Two of the companies were assessed penalties that were later rescinded.

Several violators of important regulations "remained non-compliant with enforcement schedules of an order," EPA reports. "Two facilities missed their schedules by four or more months."

"Incomplete compliance evaluation inspections and comprehensive groundwater monitoring evaluations are directly contributing to the non-identification of violations," Davis says in the report's cover letter.

Some of the problems cited by EPA were the result of changes in the status of companies and some were paperwork violations, according to longtime officials with the hazardous waste division.

Hardy says the division's field people are aware that he wants them to enforce regulations strongly, and their better training is allowing them to do so.

One of the things that has hampered enforcement has been a lack of attorneys, according to Miller.

When Pat Norton was secretary of DEQ, she stressed enforcement and a number of enforcement cases were made, but almost all of the companies appealed rather than paying the proposed penalties. That left the division with a huge backlog of unresolved cases, he says.

Those cases now have been docketed and are moving, Patterson says.

He and Miller agree that the hazardous waste division has taken a much stronger enforcement attitude since Hardy became assistant secretary.

Graham of the chemical association wants to see more and better trained DEQ inspectors in the field because that is the only way the public will gain confidence in the agency and believe environmental laws are being properly enforced.

In some cases, inspectors have had to get their training from people at the plants because the inspectors "don't really know what they're looking at," he says. He says he would like to see some of the fees industry is paying for environmental permits go into better training for DEQ personnel.

Training has been stepped up in recent months, Patterson says.

Graham also is concerned about the impact on industry of the potential denial of the CECOS Inc. hazardous waste landfill permit in Livingston Parish. He says it will put pressure on industries disposing there to find an



Tim Hardy is trying to get the hazardous waste division out of 'crisis mode'

alternate site.

Environmentalists have praised the proposal, and Darryl Malek-Wiley of the Sierra Club says "the political will was not there" in the previous DEQ administration.

Stronger action in issuing penalties is also a welcome sign, he says.

"They've made some positive steps," but there are still some people in the division "who need a fire lit under them," Malek-Wiley says. The strategy has to be to "protect the health of Louisiana citizens and the environment first and worry about the cost to industry second."

Graham is concerned about proposed Act 803 regulations to phase out land disposal of hazardous waste.

The advisory committee putting together the regulations includes only one industry representative and, so far, has come up with a document that will be very burdensome to some companies, Graham says. It probably will shut down some injection wells.

The state would have done better to track federal regulations and then add



Tom Patterson says improved training should solve some of the problems cited by EPA

whatever it needed to satisfy special situations in Louisiana and the requirements of the state act, he says.

As for now, it is going to create a dual system that industry will have to deal with.

"We're always concerned about DEQ adopting regulations more stringent than the federal government," Graham says. "We don't agree that we can get to zero land disposal of hazardous waste."

If DEQ continues with those



Glenn Miller says the Department of Environmental Quality is taking a stronger enforcement attitude

regulations, it may put itself into a box resulting in litigation from industry and possibly EPA, he says.

Those regulations are not final and industry will have an opportunity to make its feelings known during the public hearing process, Hardy says.

In general, he says he wants to see strong but fair regulations and enforcement that allow industry to operate while protecting public health and the environment.

## Meeting on Rollins permit set

The state will hold a public information meeting Thursday evening on a permit request by Rollins Environmental Services (LA) Inc. to operate two hazardous waste incinerators, seven landfills and other treatment units here.

Department of Environmental Quality officials and technical representatives from Rollins will be present at 6 p.m. to provide information in the Mineral Board Hearing Room of

the State Land and Natural Resources Building, 625 N. Fourth St.

An adjudicatory hearing on the permit requests will be held Nov. 7. Any person wishing to formally intervene as a party in the case must file a petition for intervention with DEQ by next Monday.

A copy of the permit application and the proposed draft permit is available for review at DEQ.

## Top Communist calls for reform in Yugoslavia

By ALISON SMALE  
Associated Press writer

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — The Communist Party chief urged Yugoslavia on Monday to unite behind reform or face destruction, but a defiant Serbian leader defended the mass rallies that are fueling ethnic unrest.

Worker dissatisfaction over the economy together with ethnic discontent have stirred speculation recently about a possible military takeover or an eventual break-up of the six republics and two autonomous provinces that make up Yugoslavia.

Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Veljko Kadijevic said, however, it was "false and malicious" to suggest the army "should take power through a putsch."

The crisis is Yugoslavia's gravest since World War II.

A key meeting of the Communist Party's policy-setting Central Committee opened Monday with party chief Stipe Suvar urging quarreling leaders to unite behind reform.

"All of us in this country are faced with a choice — either we all resolve the crisis together, or we all head to destruction," Suvar warned in a two-hour speech.

But Serbian party chief Slobodan Milosevic, hailed by supporters as "the second Tito," a reference to Yugoslavia's longtime late leader, responded with a stinging attack on past inability to control the country's worst postwar economic and social crises.

"Yugoslavs will not accept another 'marathon, sclerotic session' that does nothing to ease ethnic tension and economic hardship, Milosevic told the closed-door session in a speech later broadcast on national radio and television.

Workers battling a 217 percent inflation rate and austerity measures imposed to curb a \$21 billion foreign debt have increasingly blamed Communist leaders for their plight, and have protested on the streets.

Milosevic defended his drive to extend Serbian control over its two autonomous provinces of Vojvodina and

Kosovo, where the Serb minority alleges harassment at the hands of the ethnic Albanian majority.

Hundreds of thousands of Serbs have been rallying to back Milosevic's demands, causing unprecedented rifts with communist leaders of Yugoslavia's five other republics.

Suvar demanded an end to "reckless confrontations" and said the mass rallies "are leading us nowhere."

But Milosevic said: "Any banning of the meetings is unacceptable," and said claims that the rallies fuel unrest are "sland and shameful."

The non-Serbs fear Milosevic seeks to boost his national power and that of Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic.

Milosevic assured them, "Serbia has no claims to the territory of other republics. It does have claim to territory in its own republic."

Vojvodina and Kosovo are historically part of Serbia.

His speech indicated that rifts that opened up in clashes last week with Suvar and party chief Milan Kucan of liberal, northern Slovenia still divide Yugoslavia's three most important Communist leaders.

Suvar, a Croat, advocated "a fundamental renewal of socialism" and urgent economic and political reforms to solve mounting foreign debt and stagnation.

Kucan later expressed unreserved support for Suvar's speech.

Before economic reform goes ahead, the meeting was billed as a historic gathering to shake up the party leadership.

"All the incompetent and compromised people must go, and this society must be ensured of a new perspective," Suvar said Monday.

But no immediate word surfaced on any sweeping personnel changes.

Azem Vlasti, the top ethnic Albanian leader from Kosovo, rejected Serbian calls to step down.

To date, four members of the 23-man Politburo have said they will resign. Their resignations are expected to be formally accepted by the 162-member Central Committee on Tuesday.

## Cracks

CONTINUED FROM 1A

against comparing the Aloha incident and the cracks found on the Continental plane.

One FAA official, speaking on condition he not be further identified, said the cracks on the Continental jet were found at a point lower on the aircraft near a wing and where there apparently had been repair work performed by a previous owner of the plane.

The Aloha incident, which remains under investigation by the NTSB, is widely believed to involve cracking caused by corrosion, but corrosion does not appear to have been a factor in the cracks on the Continental aircraft, this official suggested.

An FAA spokesman, Bob Buckhorn, said the agency expects to issue a new directive soon to airlines broadening the inspection requirements on older Boeing 737s in search of cracks, including increased use of testing by high-frequency electronic equipment.

The new rule also will require that the planes be stripped of paint when being inspected, he said.

A spokesman for Continental said the airline inspected all 42 of its older Boeing 737s within 72 hours after the foot-long crack was discovered when the plane was being prepared for repainting at the airline's Los Angeles repair facility.

He said no cracks were found in any of the other planes.

"This appears to be an isolated incident," said Continental spokesman Ned Walker in Houston.

Walker said the plane, which was built in 1969, had undergone a visual inspection for cracks last May 20 in accordance with a directive from the FAA and no cracks were found then.

According to the safety board, the Continental plane had about 55,446 takeoffs and landings. This was considerably fewer than the 89,000 cycles attributed to the Aloha Boeing 737 involved in last April's incident in which a 20-foot section of the plane's roof ripped away during flight.

A flight attendant was swept to her death, but the plane miraculously

landed safely with passengers and flight attendants clinging to their seats to keep from being sucked through the gaping hole.

The Aloha 737 was the 152nd off the Boeing assembly line, while the Continental jet was No. 170. Both were built in 1969 and were among the 291 737s on which a so-called "cold bonding" process was used to fix sections of metal sheets onto the fuselage.

Shortly after the Aloha incident, the FAA required airlines to conduct special inspections of more than 200 older 737s. Those aircraft with more than 30,000 takeoffs and landings were required to be visually inspected for cracks, while those with more than 50,000 takeoffs and landings were to undergo inspections with high-frequency electronic equipment.

The so-called "eddy current" tests are designed to uncover extremely tiny cracks that might be overlooked in a visual inspection.

Although the Continental plane where the foot-long crack was found Oct. 5 had more than 50,000 cycles the eddy current inspection was not required on the section of the aircraft where the crack later was discovered, Walker said. He said a visual inspection of that section of the plane showed no cracking last May.

The Boeing 737 is widely used for short-haul flights. According to the Boeing Co., 212 older Boeing 737s operated by 19 U.S. airlines in domestic service were subject to the special FAA inspection requirements last May.

Boeing spokesman David Jimenez said in Seattle the company was referring any questions to Continental regarding the discovery of cracks.

### Hernandez nominated

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan has nominated Vice Adm. Diego E. Hernandez, now commander of the 3rd Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for assignment as deputy chief of the U.S. Space Command, the Pentagon said Monday.

## Campaign

CONTINUED FROM 1A

"trying desperately to jump into the mainstream" by acknowledging a need to modernize land-based nuclear missiles.

"But there is strong reason to doubt that he would do it," Bush said. "He still opposes the MX and he thinks the Midgeman costs too much. So he says he's going to work with Congress to find another way."

"Wake up governor," Bush said, "we've done all that."

He defended the Reagan administration's record on conventional forces against Dukakis' past charges that such forces have been slighted in the push for new, big-ticket strategic weapons systems. Bush dismissed that as "misinformation."

"Governor, it's time to stop running down our defenses," he said.

He also ridiculed Dukakis for supporting some research into SDI while dismissing the proposed space-based missile-defense system as a fantasy.

Dukakis and his campaign staff were embracing the idea of running as the underdog. To underscore his resolve, Dukakis said "My spirits are good" and took trumpet in hand to play "Happy Days Are Here Again," a Democratic standard.

Dukakis declared he was "fighting for the values I believe in," and, in a touch of populism, told workers at a copper and brass plant, "I want to be the president who stands up and fights for you."

He pointed to recent trade figures showing imports to the United States were at an all-time high in August and said Bush "has not given the American people a clue as to what he would do" to reverse the trade deficit.

"George Bush sat on the sidelines for eight years while America got beaten in world markets, . . . while a piece of America was being sold off every day at bargain-basement prices," he said.

He also disputed Bush's standard speech line that he wants "a kinder, gentler nation."

"His record tells rural America the fewer family farmers the better. His

record tells middle-class families, the glory days are over. Your kids may not do as well as you," Dukakis said.

Bentsen, trying to save some of the South for the Democrats, said Dukakis was not planning cuts in defense spending and defended him against television ads playing in the South that hit Dukakis as an advocate of gun control.

"I sure wouldn't be running with any fellow if I thought he was going to take my shotgun away from me," Bentsen said in Texarkana, on the Texas-Arkansas border.

Republican vice-presidential nominee Dan Quayle dropped in unannounced at a Flim, Mich., Burger King restaurant, where he talked about sports and wood-burning stoves over coffee with customers.

He also took a page from Dukakis' campaign book by pledging "good jobs at good wages" — the phrase Dukakis has used since the primaries.

In a series of stops across Michigan, where the auto industry has been hard hit by foreign competition, Quayle called for "fair, free trade" without resorting to "protectionist barriers."

Meanwhile, Bush won the endorsement of the Teamsters executive board Monday after a poll of the nation's largest union gave him a four-point margin over Dukakis, union officials said.

Just 21,207 members of the 1.7 million-strong Teamsters voted in the poll, said union president William J. McCarthy, who is from Massachusetts and has been critical of the governor.

The union has not endorsed a Democrat for president since 1968 but had a falling out with the Republican Reagan administration in 1986 over the indictment of union president Jackie Presser.

The union would endorse neither Quayle nor the Republican Party, however.

The Bush campaign, meanwhile, has begun a new television ad saying Bush would be more qualified to negotiate with Soviet Leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.