

Waste Dump Opponents

Echoing waste dump opponents and environmentalists, Mr. Blumenthal said Connecticut's small size, high population density and the fractured bedrock beneath its soil are three of several factors making it unsuitable for a radioactive waste dump.

This state has been wrestling with where to locate a disposal site since 1987, when the legislature ordered the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service—a quasi-public agency—to find a site and select a developer and operator for the planned facility.

Responding to public outcry about a June 1990 selection plan that produced controversial candidate sites, including the 233-acre backup site in Sharon, the legislature voted two months ago for a new approach, placing greater emphasis on the impact on drinking water supplies, population density and local institutions.

The original top candidate sites were located in northcentral Connecticut, and following critical reviews from the state Departments of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., ordered changes in the site selection criteria. In its April alterations, the General Assembly also called for a plan to build a temporary storage facility; both plans are due Feb. 1.

Connecticut's legal challenge to the Federal law began last fall, when Mr.

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