

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1991
WATERBURY, CONN.

Litchfield County.

'S assailed at hearing

minutes before it began, and could not comment with any depth.

But they used the hearing to tell Carl Pavetto, the DEP's Air Bureau chief, and Kevin McCarthy, the DEP's director of radiation and noise control, of their concerns about the whole enterprise.

"How will it be managed?" asked Gary Portenando of Norfolk. "How will a contractor be picked?"

O'Brien questioned whether such a facility can be fast-safe for centuries.

"It will be holding cobalt-60 and strontium-90," said Edmund Brazis of Waterbury. "These elements emit gamma rays and you know they're difficult to control. If it's built in a rural area, what happens to the wildlife?"

Portenando also got McCarthy to admit

that the draft regulations do not prevent the state from letting other states ship wastes to the facility for a price — once it's built.

"If Connecticut once have to build this," said Lisa Mascia of Waterbury, "it seems it will be looking for customers. We don't want other states' wastes."

Ms. LaVoie also asked why the state is building such an elaborate facility to begin with. She said Northeast Utilities, four nuclear power plants throughout the percent of the volume of the state's low-level radioactive wastes, and about 99.9 percent of the radioactivity.

"We view this as an economic issue," she said. "The nuclear plants have generated this waste. They've made money off it. These wastes should be kept on site at the plants. Why should people have to pay for it?"