

Waste dump finalists named

By LIZ SEYMOUR
Register Citizen Staff

A quasi-public state agency yesterday chose two sites in Ellington and one on the East Windsor-South Windsor border as the possible locations for the state's low-level radioactive waste dump.

Officials in the three towns said they were stunned and angered that, after combing the entire state for ideal locations, the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service chose three spots clumped together in suburbs north of Hartford.

"I'm outraged," state Rep.

Edward Graziani, D-Ellington, said. "There are houses and apartment complexes and schools right near the sites. The traffic near there is outrageous. And they're going to transport nuclear waste near there? That's incredible."

"I think there is something illogical about this," Rep. Kevin Rennie, R-South Windsor, said. "We never knew that we lived in such a geographically unique area of Connecticut. And I don't think we do."

The waste management service, a quasi-public agency, chose the three sites after a statewide

search for sparsely populated spots that had the proper geology and groundwater flow to minimize possible environmental damage from the underground storage facility.

By early next year, after testing at the sites is completed, the waste management service expects to pick one of the sites for construction of a facility that should open by mid-1995.

Yesterday's announcement immediately was criticized by a small band of anti-nuclear activists who heckled members of the

See ELLINGTON, page 12

Low-level radioactive waste:

■ The Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service, a quasi-public state agency, Monday announced three potential locations — two in Ellington and one straddling the line between East Windsor and South Windsor — for a low-level radioactive waste dump.

What happens next?

■ Contractors must conduct studies at the three locations and tentatively pick one after three months of testing. Then for 12 straight months they must gather information about the site, including soil conditions and rainfall.

With that data, the management service plans to apply at the end of 1992 to the federal government for a license to build and operate a disposal facility. Three permits from the state Department of Environmental Protection and approval from the Connecticut Siting Council also must be obtained. This is expected to take about a year and a half.

If things go according to the service's plan, construction would take about a year and the facility would open by late 1995.

