VOL. 11 NO. 26 1/6/91

SHARON IS SELECTED AS CONTINGENT SITE FOR NUCLEAR WASTE

Opposition Mounting; Tract Of 233 Acres Includes Club, Nature Preserve

By JONATHAN TURNER

SHARON—Opposition was mounting this week to the selection of a 233-acre piece of land here as a possible back-up site for a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

An emergency town meeting has been scheduled for tonight at 8 p.m. at Sharon Center School to discuss the site selection process and to organize an effort to counter the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service's decision last Friday to name the Sharon land as an alternative site for the radioactive waste dump.

Less than two weeks after it announced that two sites in Ellington and one along the East Windsor-South Windsor line were the prime candidates for the disposal facility, the CHWMS revealed that the Sharon tract was among five other alternative sites in the state.

Candidate Site

"Should there be a problem in one of these three sites that would make it immediately excludable, then the Sharon site will become a candidate site," said Anita Baxter, a spokeswoman for the agency. State and town officials are objecting to that plan, however, and the Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, which owns an environmentally sensitive swamp near the area where the radioactive waste dump could be located, also has expressed concern.

Phyllis Fillow, chairwoman of the town's Conservation Commission, is reportedly organizing a local opposition group and is expected to discuss the effort at tonight's meeting. Several years ago, she was an active opponent of the Iroquois natural gas pipeline, as was First Selectman Robert Moeller.

Cornwall First Selectman Richard B. Dakin said this week that he and officials of other nearby communities will offer any support to concerned Sharon residents that may be necessary.

Support the Fight

"We ought to support the fight because the only way to get this to Sharon is through Cornwall," he said. "We don't want this material trucked through Cornwall. It's so idiotic to truck this stuff all across the state. The whole area could be affected." Sixth District U.S. Representative Nancy L. Johnson also has raised specific concerns about the selection of the Sharon site.

The area targeted as a possible location for the radioactive waste dump includes land owned by the Sharon Country Club and several residential property owners, according to Mr. Moeller. The site lies just southwest of the intersection of Routes 41 and 343, north of Benton Hill Road, and west of Hatch Pond and is 1,800 feet from the New York State line.

At presstime, Mr. Moeller said that he had not been able to determine all the property owners whose land would be included in the potential site. The town's tax assessor had not received a copy of

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