Site for Nuclear Dump

sites, Ms. Baxter said. Testing of the Ellington-area sites will be done for about four months, starting in August.

A preferred site for the radioactive waste facility will likely be picked from these three choices in early 1992.

This week, U.S. Senators Christopher J. Dodd and Joseph I. Lieberman questioned whether all possible options regarding the location of this dump have been fully explored.

In a letter to the CHWMS, the two Democrats wrote, "We are concerned that too much weight and emphasis has been placed on the foregone conclusion that Connecticut would build a low-level hazardous waste facility, and not enough emphasis has been given to local concerns or disposal alternatives outside of Connecticut's borders."

The senators also questioned the extent to which factors such as the health and welfare of state residents were considered and whether environmental costs were examined during the selection process.

Republican Sixth District U.S. Representative Nancy L. Johnson, meanwhile, cited specific concerns about the the selection of the Sharon site as a possible location for the radioactive waste dump. She noted that the land borders residential areas in town, and said she was worried about transportation of radioactive waste to the site.

"Geological issues are key to safe management of any solid or liquid waste, but the state must consider transportation and safety issues in deciding where to put this type of disposal facility," she said in a prepared statement. "I am not convinced that the state would have chosen a town like Sharon if it had considered these issues."

Mrs. Johnson said she has contacted residents and town officials to discuss strategy, "to ensure a thorough and comprehensive analysis of both the service's decision and the process that led to it."

Ms. Baxter revealed that while the Sharon property met several important criteria such as the areas of hydrogeology and geology, "it dropped down in ranking when the transportation criteria was applied." In addition to proximity to waste generators, that criteria also included proximity to major highways, she said.

The radioactive waste, which includes material such as contaminated clothing, test tubes and paper towels, is to be transported by truck in large steel drums.

Charlene LaVoie, a community lawyer in Winsted who has helped Litchfield County towns adopt bans on radioactive waste, noted that the selection of Sharon ignores another of the service's main criteria—that a candidate site be located in proximity to generators of the waste.

"It really boggles my mind," she said. "It's on the other side of the state from the major producers of radioactive waste. It's a ludicrous thought. It's a logistical problem in getting the stuff from one end of the state to the other."

Connecticut's four nuclear power plants are in the southeastern part of the state and all of the other seven candidate sites are located east of the Connecticut River. One other alternative site is in Ell-



Judith Petrovich

Sharon Country Club property.