NEW DISPOSAL PLAN FOR NUCLEAR WASTE MAY IMPACT COUNTY

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Weicker Expected to Sign Bill Putting Emphasis On Rural Regions

By JONATHAN P. TURNER

The latest version of the site selection rules for Connecticut's first nuclear waste disposal site won applause in north-central Connecticut, but the changes could put Litchfield County land at greater risk, according to worried environmentalists, town officials and legislators.

"This skews things toward the more rural areas," said Republican State Senator James Fleming, an Environment Committee member who represents several northern Litchfield County towns and opposed the new legislation in last week's Senate vote. "The new criteria will eliminate places like South Windsor and Ellington in favor of places like Sharon and North Canaan."

Expected to Be Signed

The bill, expected to be signed by Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. next week, scraps the plan that led to last June's choice of top candidate sites in Ellington, South Windsor and East Windsor, and a backup site in Sharon. The new law would direct the Connecticut Hazardous Waste Management Service to submit a new selection plan Feb. 1, 1993 detailing how it would choose a temporary storage site for low-level radioactive waste and a permanent disposal site.