

HIGH COURT RULING ON WASTE DISPOSAL PRAISED IN STATE

Site for Radioactive Waste In Conn. No Longer Needed, Says Attorney General

By JONATHAN P. TURNER

Connecticut may not have to create a low-level radioactive waste disposal site after all, now that a U.S. Supreme Court decision has struck down the Federal law requiring states to dispose of radioactive material produced within their borders.

The ruling, announced last Friday, was hailed by state and local officials, who said it may exempt Connecticut from establishing a disposal site, and at the very least gives the state much more time to do so. Relief was the reaction in Sharon, which was targeted as a potential backup site for a disposal facility.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal called Friday's 6-to-3 decision "a significant victory for the states, removing a unique and onerous burden imposed on the states by Congress."

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The Supreme Court action prompted Mr. Blumenthal to ask the state legislature to abandon the current site selection process and remove its Feb. 1, 1993 deadline for completion of a selection plan. The Federal Government, he added, should have a "greater role and responsibility in this area. We're under no obligation to choose a site now, so there's no reason to devote additional resources and energy to this."

"I hope that Congress will see the wisdom of having a national strategy and policy with respect to this problem, which is national in scope," he said. "States like Connecticut aren't suited to siting this kind of disposal facility."