

SCA Asks State's OK to Drop Incinerator Plan

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SCA Chemical Services Inc. will ask the state next month for permission to drop and possibly abandon permanently plans to build a \$24 million incinerator to burn toxic and hazardous wastes at its Model City plant at the Lewiston-Porter town line in Niagara County.

The facility is one of two major toxic waste disposal facilities in the region and serves industry both on the Niagara Frontier and throughout the Northeast.

The company a year ago billed the incinerator scheme as the cornerstone of a 10-year, \$50 million plan to convert its disposal operation from one relying on land burial to high-technology destruction.

SCA said it is already shipping about 20 truckloads of material a month to its Chicago-area facility,

where the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency approved an operating permit for a converted \$22 million incinerator Dec. 30.

THE COMPANY is due to file an update of its state-mandated 10-year operating plan for the Model City plant in mid-February, and the update will contain the request to delay construction of an incinerator.

SCA, in filing the original plan in September 1981, said the incinerator would be operating by 1984.

State Department of Environmental Conservation officials say they have discussed the proposal with SCA but "have made no commitment."

Former Environmental Commissioner Robert F. Flacke told The Buffalo News recently that if either SCA or CECOS International Inc.

backs away from plans for high-technology disposal, the state will review permits it has granted.

He said new permits for such things as waste lagoons would be conditional on SCA's adhering to a strict timetable for converting operations to end burial of hazardous wastes.

Commissioner-designate Henry G. Williams has taken no position but is scheduled to visit the Niagara Frontier to see firsthand some of the environmental problems that the Cuomo administration must deal with in coming months.

THE PROPOSED incinerator has drawn criticism from some environmental groups, and there has been concern voiced nationally about toxic air emissions.

SCA said it reviewed the incinerator question and decided to seek a

delay because of "market and regulatory considerations."

A generally depressed economy has been marked by a downswing in industrial production, including production of waste byproducts.

A company spokesman said the condition is aggravated by the lack of federal and state regulations — the failure of either the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the DEC to require destruction rather than burial of toxic and hazardous wastes.

SCA would not comment on possible competition from one oceangoing incinerator ship and the federal grant that will permit construction of two additional oceangoing incinerators, but some sources say this will lead to overcapacity in waste material disposal.

The company said it is also holding off on decision to build an incin-

erator at its Newark, N.J. plant but said it will investigate incinerator systems.

WHEN IT first announced its 10-year plan, SCA said it might be necessary to build a second incinerator "because we think demand will quickly exceed the first unit's capacity of burning four tons an hour of solid waste and 10,000 gallons a day of liquid waste."

The company said waste disposers generally seek the "cheapest" means of getting rid of wastes, which, until there are strict federal regulations, will mean more use of landfills.

In other revisions, SCA will advise the state that it plans to construct three 30,000- to 50,000-gallon tanks where it will place liquids coming into Model City that now are stored in open lagoons.