

Zoning stops Porter dumps

PORTER — Town zoning laws guarantee that SCA Chemical Inc. cannot legally build any new landfills on federal property on Balmer Road that the firm has expressed an interest in buying, Town Supervisor Ronald C. Johnston said last night.

Townpeople "are assuming there's going to be more lagoons, more landfills" if SCA purchases a 549-acre U.S. Air Force testing facility on the north side of Balmer road west of Porter Center Road, the supervisor said.

"That's not going to happen," Johnston assured those present at the town board meeting. "We have protected it in the zoning."

The town in past years deliberately zoned all land surrounding the SCA property to prohibit any

more landfill development, Johnston said.

In a 5-0 vote, the board told Town Attorney George Orr Jr. to contact the Federal General Services Administration to get a description of the parcel a GSA spokesman last week confirmed the federal government may sell. Orr will also try to obtain other technical information and arrange for the board to tour the property. Johnston said the town board will decide whether it would be in the town's interest to buy the land to develop an industrial park. However, convincing a private developer buy the parcel might put more tax dollars more quickly into town coffers, Johnson said.