

Waste Control Holds Open Forum

Last Thursday, October 13, 1994, business leaders, local government leaders, and residents were invited by Waste Control Specialists to attend an open forum concerning the new landfill to be built six miles east of Eunice.

The meeting was presided over by spokesperson, Kent Hance. He introduced the other notables involved with Waste Control Specialists, Mr. Ken Bigham, owner of WCS, Mr. Allen Messenger, chief engineer for WCS, and Mr. Buddy Alford, director of development for the company.

Mr. Hance told the audience that the project is much larger than anyone ever suspected. Not only will the new landfill contain the original condominium cells but will include a research and development plan that will quadruple the size of the site.

The condo cells will be sold to individual companies that do not want to mix their waste products with any other company. All companies are responsible for their waste from "cradle to the grave".

Many companies throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico have expressed major interest in these condos.

Much of the site will be used for research and development groups that are interested in developing new technology and how to dispose of waste products properly. One such group is the Gulf Coast Hazardous Substance Research Center comprised of universities throughout the Gulf Coast such as University of Texas, University of Houston, Texas A & M, Lamar University, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State, Florida University, and Florida State.

All of these schools have been out to inspect the site and plans are being formulated to build a research center at the site.

The E.P.A. has also shown interest along with NAFTA on considering building a dormitory on site, and they are interested in bringing people in from all over the world to study waste disposal that can be utilized in other countries.

Sandia Labs and Los Alamos labs have also shown an interest in the landfill site and might form a working agreement with WCS.

Right now there are 18 hazardous landfills in the United States and seven more on the drawing board. The Andrews site has gone through faster than any other

landfill in history.

Mr. Hance says this is due to doing things right and that is picking a site that does not have a water problem to contend with and the red clay beds. The West Texas/New Mexico site is ideal.

Construction on the site should begin in early 1995 and all construction bids will probably go out to local contractors. Hiring will be done shortly and will be advertised in all area newspapers.

The first phase of the landfill should produce around 120 jobs but after the 3-5 year build-up of additional construction, the job market could expand to 400-500 jobs. None of these jobs will be minimum wage.

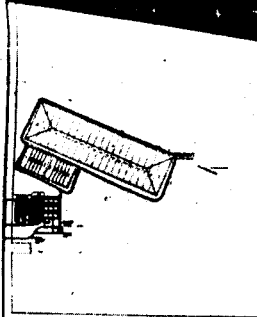
Those from Eunice that attended the meeting were Don Whitaker, Ed Pearcy, Dan Berry, Bill Weaver, Glenn Danford, David Gallegos, Ricky Green, Maurice Hughes, and Lynn White. Former Eunices attending were Bobby Wallach and Ben Alexander.

The general feeling of the overflow crowd was one of great optimism. Most of the people in attendance felt that WCS has been very forthright with New Mexico and has taken great strides to insure that this landfill is done right and safe.

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Haz. & Rad. Mat.
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Trissie Parks
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