San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co.)
Examiner
(Cir. D. 158,722)

SEP 1 1982

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Governor unveils tough new rules on toxic waste disposal

1407

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Gov. Brown has unveiled landmark regulations to control the disposal of toxic wastes and other lethal garbage of the kind that led to the Love Canal disaster in New York state.

The stringent new controls, to be administered by the Department of Health Services, would make California the first state in the nation to adopt such prohibitions.

According to Brown, 500,000 tons of toxic wastes are being dumped in California each year, and the state has identified 70 toxic dumps that will eventually require cleaning up.

The materials to be barred from landfills and other land-based dump sites under the new regulations include cyanides, toxic metals, strong acids, PCBs, halogenated compounds and all other wastes currently classified by the state as "extremely hazardous."

Those materials instead would be burned, chemically treated or recycled.

"As a society, we generate with our prosperity very lethal and dangerous chemicals," Brown said.

"The practice in the past has been to dump them in the ground and let someone else worry about it 20 years later. The question is are we going to be stewards for now and the future, or are we going to continue to dump this lethal garbage?"

Brown spoke at a press conference in San Francisco yesterday and was joined by U.S. Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colorado, who has propsed national legislation based on California's toxic waste program.

The new regulations call for the landfill restrictions to be phased in during a two-year period beginning in March 1983. The lag time in implementation is intended to allow adequate time for the construction of new waste treatment and recycling facilities.

"We're pushing the introduction of the new technology about as fast as we can," Brown said.

The timetable for phasing out ground dumping, he said, was arrived at after meetings with representatives of the waste treatment industry.

"We believe the technology will be ready," he said, adding that one facility in Southern California has already been licensed and at least seven others have submitted applications for licensing.

The health department has submitted the proposed regulations to the state Office of Administrative Law for initial review. A 45-day public review period is expected to begin Sept. 7, with a public hearing slated for October.

The regulations are expected to take effect in December.

Enforcement would take place at any industrial plant where highly toxic wastes are disposed of at on-site landfills and at off-site landfills in Contra Costa, Solano, Kings, Fresno, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties.

In response to a question, Brown said it is "highly unlikely" the prohibitions will be watered down or blocked, since the waste generating and waste control industries had "aggressively participated" in the discussions that led to the regulations.

PCB-ARCH-EXT0376104