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Nuke dump sites considered

United Press International

15, 1984

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AUSTIN — State engineers are eviewing water and geology maps f two plots of land in North Texas o determine their suitability for a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility, officials said Tuesday.

Tom Blackburn, spokesman for the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority, said the state should decide later this week about the viability of the privately-owned sites in Archer and Wilbarger

Agency officials flew over the sites Monday and will review available lata on the land before deciding whether to pursue the property, he aid. The land is now used for graz-

Blackburn said the state found the property by advertising in local newspapers.

"We met with the landowners and looked over the land very quickly,"

No oil to be produced

he said. "It's mostly clay soil, which is what we're looking for.

Blackburn said, however, there may be a problem with the mineral rights on the Archer County prop- \$10 million. erty. Both tracts are about 300 acres Meanwhile, Blackburn said the

agency's board of directors has in-structed the staff to seek a threemonth extension of an option to purchase a 456-acre site in South Fexas. The \$903-an-acre option on the privately-owned site in Dimmit County is scheduled to expire Aug.

The Dimmit site near Asherton has been identified as geologically acceptable, but it has been vigorously opposed by the Catholic Diocese of San Antonio and nearby landowners, including former Gov. Dolph Briscoe

The state is also considering sites in Webb and McMullen counties in South Texas, said Blackburn.

The agency has \$743,000 in its current budget to buy land and perform engineering work on a site. The facility is expected to cost about

The authority does not have a firm timetable for selecting a site, but Texas faces a Jan. 1, 1986, federal deadline in building a storage facility for low-level nuclear wastes produced by its hospitals, universities and industry.

Texas' wastes are now shipped to dumps in South Carolina, Nevada and Washington, but after 1986 those facilities will not be legally obligated to accept wastes from other

Texas produced 27,000 cubic feet of low-level radioactive wastes in

Corpus asks for squadron

United Press International

CORPUS CHRISTI - A study group is recommending that Corpus Christi make an all-out effort to become the homeport for a six-ship squadron that the U.S. Navy is considering stationing in the Gulf of Mexico

Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, said the Navy this month began a formal investigation into the feasibility of homeporting a "Battleship Surface Action Group" in the Gulf and that Corpus Christi, Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, Biloxi, and Pensacola so far have expressed in-

'This is great news for the South Texas coast area, which has a number of positive qualities to offer, including a fine working relationship with the Navy already in place," Or-tiz said, referring to the Naval Air Stations at Corpus Christi, Beeville and Kingerille and Kingsville.

The Corpus Christi '90 Task Force Committee reports it is sending a letter to city officials this week urging them to convince the Navy to locate the ships - consisting of a battleship, a cruiser, a guided missile destroyer, and three guided missile frigates — here.

Secretary of the Navy John Leh-man told the Corpus Christi con-gressman in a recent letter that the Navy would receive proposals from the various communities trying to attract the ships between August 1984

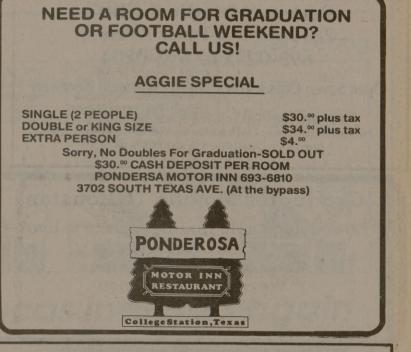
and January 1985. Delivery of the ships would begin about 1990, Ortiz said.

'According to Secretary Lehman. the investigation is consistent with the Navy's intent to disperse its forces, improve the utilization of the nation's ship repair industrial capac-ity, develop ports suitable for use by Navy ships, and use the geography of the country to broaden Navy operating experience and reduce transit times to areas of potential crisis," Ortiz said

Corpus Christi '90 termed the tion project and a \$50 to \$60 million yearly payroll — "one of the most important tasks currently facing this community.

One committee member also suggested that the presence of the Navy blue jackets and ships would enhance tourism in the Corpus Christi area.

Ortiz said the Navy is expected to select the homeport site next April after viewing presentations from the six cities.



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UT drills well in building **United Press International** The \$250,000 well was drilled as

AUSTIN - Most oil wells are part of the construction of the new drilled in the wide open spaces, but live-story petroleum and engi-the University of Texas has drilled neering building that is expected to one smack-dab in the middle of the be ready for occupancy by Septembasement of its new petroleum and ber 1985. chemical engineering building.

"This is really a test well," quipped Dr. Myron Dorfman, chairman of the UT Department of Petroleum Engineering. "We don't expect it to

While the 550-foot well may not produce oil or gas, it is expected to produce research data that could ead to computer-operated oil and gas fields in the future, said Dorf-

Researchers hope to use the well mprove efficiency and reduce man-

"We think this (oil and gas) industry can become automated just like every other industry is going," said Dorfman

Dorfman said as far as he knows it is the first such well to be drilled.

'A facility of this sort is unique in that we will be doing a form of work no one is doing," he said.

"This well will give us the capability of using the well to simulate ac-tual conditions in the field," he said. "We can fill it with water, oil, gas or mixtures, and then within the lab it-

neers



self we'll have all sorts of digital meters and we'll be able to develop our own programs on microcomputers.

"The idea is to develop compu-tered-operated oil fields," Dorfman said. "We'll be able to punch a but-ton and get a well to flow into a test tank rather than a regular tank, or change the opening through the change the opening through the flows or the pressures.

Computer-operated oil wells would require less manpower, pro-vide more sophisticated monitors and better safety, he said.

"It could cut down on the need for non-technical types and allow you to operate a field with several old wells with a minimum number of people," Dorfman added. "We'll use to work on new logging techniques and enhance the recovery of old fields and train production engi-

Right now, all that is visible in the building's basement is a hole in the ground



The full-size well, part of the building's automated production laboratory, has a 13-inch diameter hole and a 9 %-inch casing. It has been logged and documented like a to develop computer applications to producing well, Dorman said.

> per products and we rent everything from linens and crystal to party tents and dance floors.

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