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## Senate approves nuke dump

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate signed off Wednesday on a deal allowing Maine and Vermont to ship their radioactive waste to Texas, ending Congress' lengthy consideration of the controversial agreement.

Moments after the Senate approved the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact on a commanding 78-15 vote, dejected anti-nuclear activists emerged from the Senate gallery and vowed to fight the proposed West Texas waste dump in the Texas Legislature.

"This is definitely not the end," said Erin Rogers, executive director of the legal defense fund established to oppose construction of the dump near Sierra Blanca, 90 miles southeast of El Paso. She said her group will work to block funding for the dump, which will house waste generated by nuclear

power plants, industry, medical labs and universities.

But the general manager of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority, responsible for

**"The body isn't even cold yet. Him (Jacobi) saying they will get a permit is premature."**

— Rep. Norma Chavez  
Dumping site opponent

makers' frustration during legislative session, which resulted in the dump being stripped of its budget. "I think by the time the legislature comes back there will be a license and to build a facility. I think there will be complete," Jacobi's statement.

Rep. Norma Chavez was in Washington for Senate approval of the dump. "The body isn't even cold yet," she said. "Him saying they will get a permit is premature."

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission is responsible for licensing of the dump. It is not expected to meet until "mid to late fall," said the state's general counsel Geoff

## Book ruled contraband in prison

• Texas Almanac's detailed maps raises escape concerns.

DALLAS (AP) — It wasn't the hog production table, wildflower photos or list of Texas first ladies that got the *Texas Almanac* banned in the state prison system.

It was the numerous and detailed county maps that show seemingly every little road, creek, hamlet, mountain and railroad.

"A map would be of great assistance if you were planning to go over the wall," says Larry Fitzgerald, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "Once they're outside the walls, they go. 'Ooh, I'm out here. What do I do now?'"

"A lot of times they won't have any idea really where they are, what road leads to where."

The publisher of the almanac, *The Dallas Morning News*, is not upset about the ban. Instead, the paper sees it as a breakout marketing opportunity.

The *Morning News* recently ran an advertisement for the almanac that bragged: "The powers-that-be feared that inmates might use the detailed county

maps to plot escape routes. We're not sure if the maps are so good that prisoners can read them — imagine what they can do."

Fitzgerald says the almanac has been in the system for at least the five he has been in.

As one example of why, the map of the densely forested East Texas home of the prison unit — includes the tiny town of Ace, Piney and Menard creeks, an Indian and several railroad lines.

The American Civil Liberties Union does not think the ban treads unfairly on the rights of prisoners. Says Jay Jacobson of the ACLU of Texas, "It might be able to express a legitimate concern with a detailed map that shows nooks and every hill and dale."

But defense attorney Tom Mills of Dallas says the restriction is just another example of the state's focus on punishment rather than rehabilitation.

Other banned reading material includes pornography, hate writings, and anything that show how to build weapons or hide them.

It was through a 1996 letter from the prison unit that almanac editor Mary G. ... of the restrictions.

"They sent us a form saying the almanac was banned because it contained contraband. We had a good laugh over it and put it in a frame and hung it on the wall."

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