

# Nuclear decision

## State officials not set yet on waste dump site

The Associated Press

taminated tools and filters from nuclear power plants, hospitals or research centers—from Nebraska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Kansas.

The commission's developer, US Ecology, has told the state why it rejected the sites in Nemaha and Nuckolls counties, said Reta Roe, the commission's technical director.

Roe cited the state's own licensing procedures that say: "Alternatives considered by the applicant but eliminated from detailed study shall be briefly discussed" in the state's environmental report. A comparable document compiled by the state of Texas devoted less than one page to a discussion of alternative sites, she said.

"The compact seems to want the state of Nebraska to simply check US Ecology's math and accept US Ecology's assumptions," Wood said, adding that the public deserves a complete analysis.

US Ecology named Nemaha, Nuckolls and Boyd counties as finalists for the waste site in January 1989 and selected the Boyd County site in December 1989.

State officials want another look at two Nebraska sites once considered for a low-level radioactive waste warehouse that would be used by five states.

Supporters of plans to build the waste bunker in Boyd County near the South Dakota border say the state is just trying to delay the development. But Randy Wood, the director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, said the Nemaha and Nuckolls county sites are being studied for comparative purposes as required by state rules.

The Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission says the work is unnecessary. While the amount of money involved in the study is small — less than \$14,000 in a project that has cost more than \$80 million — commission officials say it is an example of wasteful, delaying tactics by the state.

The concrete bunker would hold low-level nuclear waste — such as con-

## Warehouse developers say review dragging

By J.L. SCHMIDT  
Associated Press

The people paying for development of a low-level radioactive waste warehouse said Tuesday they are tired of Nebraska regulators dragging their feet on reviewing a license for the dump.

California took 18 months and \$1.8 million to issue a license and Texas took just 10 months and \$3 million, said a spokesman for a southern electrical power generator.

It has taken Nebraska 4 1/2 years and \$18.1 million so far, said John Etheridge of Entergy Operations Inc. of Jackson, Miss.

"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires the host state to determine if a license will be issued or denied within 15 months of the date the state has decided the application is complete," he said.

The final license application was submitted June 14, 1995, making Sept. 14, 1996, the deadline, Etheridge told members of the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission.

"In the alternative, the commission would be fully justified, based on

Nebraska's letter of July 26, 1995, which stated they would complete the review process in 12 months, in holding them to no more than 15 months Creek Nuclear Operating Corp. Those companies and the Nebraska Public Power District have been paying for part of the site development.

The director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality last week said it could be more than a year before state officials were ready to determine whether to grant a license for the 110-acre site west of Butte near the South Dakota border. Director Randy Wood outlined plans for more water test wells near the site in Boyd County and plans to review sites which were rejected in Nemaha and Nuckolls County.

Commission members and developer US Ecology called the action a delay tactic. The project has been in the works for eight years.

"The review process is continuing on and on to the point where it appears we will never reach closure," said Commission Director Gene Crump.

The DEQ and the state Health De-

*Please see NUKES on 7*

## Police fined in Jet Ski accident

HASTINGS (AP) — Three police officers have been disciplined for violating department rules when they allowed a 15-year-old girl to drive a police Jet Ski.

The craft was damaged Aug. 18, when it struck rocks and a dock on Lake Hastings. One officer's teenage daughter was driving the water craft alone when the accident happened, according to Police Chief Jim Montgomery.

Hastings police officers Allen Sedlak, John Schakat and Mark Hinrichs were each fined \$700 for damage to the craft, Montgomery said.

According to a report filed with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the accident occurred when the teen-ager drove the craft too close to shore, became scared and clutched the throttle.

The craft crashed into shoreline rocks and flew about 25 feet before careening into a dock, the report states. No one was injured, and the dock sustained minor damage.



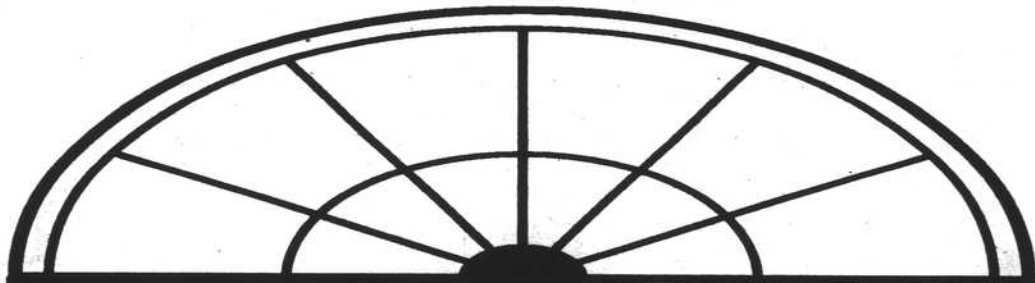
If this is the only pressure you check, your tires may outlast you.



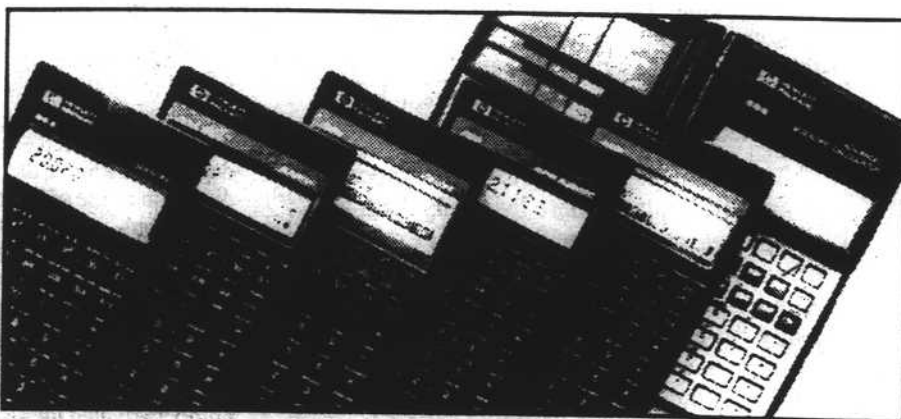
Checking your tire pressure is a good idea. Checking your blood pressure is an even better one. High blood pressure greatly increases your risk of stroke and heart attack. And those are harder to deal with than a flat tire.

To learn more, contact your nearest American Heart Association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or online at <http://www.amhrt.org>

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