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pledged for trailer park

All old dump sites
to get new systems

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GEORGETOWN — Residents of pollution-troubled Walker's Mill Mobile Home Park will be among the first beneficiaries of a program to provide safe water supplies near former landfills, Sussex County Council decided Tuesday.

The council agreed to develop a new, permanent water system in the Walker's Mill area by July 1990 and to do the same near four other old county dumps by 1994.

The decision follows an agreement last year to ensure clean water to homes threatened by contaminants leaching from the landfills, all closed in recent years as responsibility for trash disposal shifted from the county to the Delaware Solid Waste Authority.

The project will cost an estimated \$2.2 million, which the council will recover either by billing water recipients for the service or building and selling individual systems to private water companies, which would then dispense the service.

Walker's Mill Mobile Home Park is adjacent to the county's former Bridgeville-area landfill on Sussex 594. Tests in 1987 determined the park's water contained dangerous levels of cancer-causing vinyl chloride, believed to come from the dump.

Although there has been no similar finding since the county installed a water-purification system at the development's wells, traces of a number of other contaminants have been found around that landfill and others.

The other planned water systems and the deadlines for creating them:

- Angola, near Millsboro, January 1991.
- Laurel, January 1992.
- Anderson Crossroad, near Ellendale, January 1993.
- Omar, near Frankford, January 1994.

Assistant County Engineer Michael Izzo said the number of affected homes ranges from several at Omar to about 100 in the Walker's Mill area, including several dozen outside the mobile home park.

The county also had a landfill at Stockley, near Georgetown. But there are no homes considered dangerously close to it, Izzo said.

Sussex Administrator Robert L. Stickels warned the county will remain liable for landfill-caused pollution even where it sells a system. But county officials have emphasized they can detect the underground flow of contaminants, allowing them to install new wells elsewhere.

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