

# Riverfront waste interviews ruled as public information

*Site testing to begin for safety check*

By Robert Wolfe  
Emerald Contributor

University officials must release the names of current and former employees they interviewed regarding toxic waste disposal at the Riverfront Research Park site, the attorney general ruled Wednesday.

The University released documents pertaining to the dumping several weeks ago after a formal request for information

the attorney general claiming the names were public information and asking that the University be ordered to relinquish the information. The attorney general's office agreed.

In another development, Williams announced that testing of the site would begin immediately to determine if hazards exist to users of the area. Warning signs may be posted if tests warrant it, Williams said.

Opponents of the Riverfront Research Park were angered by the dumping disclosures. Stotter, of Citizens for Responsible Land Use, accused the University of "acting like midnight dumpers" and "behaving unethically."

Stotter said facts about the

he had been informed during the permit process.

Some Eugene officials involved in research park matters were aware of the dumping over a year ago, Williams said.

Williams said he informed Eugene Development Department head Abe Farkas in summer 1988, during negotiations with the Carley Capital Group for park development. Carley has since withdrawn and been replaced by IDA of Salt Lake City.

Farkas said in an interview that Williams was not specific about what was buried at the site, but committed the University to a cleanup of the area if anything was found. Farkas said he passed the information

**The Oregon attorney general's office agreed that the names were public information and that the University be ordered to relinquish the information.**

was filed under the Oregon Public Records Law by ASUO Senator Brian Hoop and law student Dan Stotter.

University Vice President Dan Williams withheld the names of current and former University employees who were interviewed about the dumping, as well as the names of administrators writing and receiving memos on the subject, citing privacy laws and the interviewees' fear of personal liability.

Eugene attorney Kerry Rydberg, acting on behalf of Hoop, submitted an appeal to

waste were kept secret to make it easier for the University to get permission to move forward with development of the Research Park.

CRLU has opposed the siting of the research park based on environmental considerations and is currently sponsoring an initiative that would limit the use of certain toxics near the Willamette River.

Jim Croteau of the city's Planning Department, who reviewed the permit application for the research park, said he would have "probably" required a cleanup of the toxics if

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