

Tough EPA is sought

Jackson to tour Sewaren Beach

By RICHARD LEE
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A stronger federal Environmental Protection Agency, stricter enforcement of health and safety standards, and a greater commitment to recycling are needed to solve the pollution problems plaguing Woodbridge beaches, Democratic Presidential contender Jesse Jackson said yesterday.

"No one has the right — by intent or by default, whether it's by a state or a corporation — to poison the air, contaminate the water, and endanger the lives of other people," Jackson said in an interview with The News Tribune.

Jackson, who campaigned yesterday in Trenton, was scheduled to tour Sewaren Beach in Woodbridge this morning to take a first-hand look at the waste that washes up on the township's shore.

New Jersey's presidential primary is Tuesday.

Woodbridge spent several years in federal court, arguing that the waste came from the Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island, N.Y.

Township officials contended that the debris escaped from Fresh Kills and floated across the Arthur Kill to Woodbridge.

The suit was settled last year as part of a consent order between New Jersey and New York City. Under the order, New York agreed to improve operations at Fresh Kills, but some New Jersey officials feel the agreement is too weak.

Jackson yesterday said three steps are needed to address the types of environmental problems that Woodbridge is experiencing.

"We must have an Environmental Protection Agency that we see as a safeguard of our health," he said.



The Associated Press

Jesse Jackson at the rostrum of the New Jersey Senate yesterday.

Jackson said the present EPA protects big business, not the environment.

"The second issue is to enforce health and safety standards," he said.

Jackson said the third step is to support recycling as an alternative to burning garbage.

Though Woodbridge's problems have centered on a landfill, New Jersey officials have charged that a New York waste incinerator was the source of debris that polluted other beaches in the state last summer.

"There was a time when you

could kind of regard the environment as a side issue," Jackson said. "It's now the center of our breathing pattern."

Cleaning up the environment will not only reduce health dangers; it will create jobs for people working on various cleanup projects, he said.

"There must be a new focus on cleaning up the environment because it is both health intensive and job intensive," he said. "You create more jobs, but you also give people a lease on life."

Earlier yesterday, Jackson held a press conference in the state Senate Chamber to outline the items he wants included in

the Democratic Party's 1988 campaign platform.

Jackson's tour of Sewaren Beach was to begin at 9 a.m. today. Assemblyman Alan J. Karcher, D-Middlesex, whose legislative district includes Woodbridge, was to accompany him.

Karcher is one of Jackson's leading supporters in New Jersey.

Jackson and his chief rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, are making frequent appearances in New Jersey in anticipation of next week's primary.