

Officials Trace Carcinogens To Indiana Dairies

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Potentially harmful amounts of the cancer-causing chemical PCB have been traced to the milk produced at three Indiana dairy farms, and low level contamination has been found in milk at 87 other dairies.

An Indiana official said Wednesday that the contamination poses no serious public health hazard, but he warned that PCB may be found for years because the chemical was widely used as a sealant in feed grain silos two decades ago.

PCBs (for polychlorinated biphenyls) have been linked to cancer in laboratory animals and to liver ailments and birth defects in humans.

The same substances have caused a serious problem in North Carolina, where PCBs were dumped along

roads in 15 counties last week.

State environmental officials said they would announce preliminary plans today to clean up the mess, and law enforcement officials are looking for those responsible for the illegal dumping.

In other developments Wednesday involving toxic chemicals and hazardous waste dumping:

— The operators of a barge carrying industrial wastes agreed to await a court ruling before dumping the toxic contents in southern Louisiana.

— Two Rhode Island state agencies prepared to ask a court to rule that several companies are responsible for cleaning up a chemical dump.

— A group representing chemical and fertilizer manufacturers charged that Iowa farm officials are

overdramatizing the effects of a new corn borer pesticide on the honeybee population.

The three southern Indiana dairy farms where PCBs were found were forced to stop production, but the 87 at which low levels of the chemicals were traced will continue production, said Donald Kimball, director of the state Health Board's Dairy Division.

In Plaquemine, La., a chemical waste disposal company agreed to delay unloading its barge of industrial waste from Texas until a state court rules on the legality of an Iberville Parish law against the dumping.

Attorneys for Rollins Environmental Services Inc. have filed suit challenging the ordinance.

The parish has been ordered to show cause on Aug. 28 why the court should uphold the law.

A similar anti-dumping law in Evangeline Parish was overturned by a state court on the ground that the law interferes with interstate commerce.

More than 100 Irate residents of the Bayou Sorrel and Grand River areas urged the parish police jury Tuesday night to fight the company's court action with another suit, promising they would support any action to stop the dumping.

The protest was sparked by the death of truck driver Kirtley Jackson, 18, of Plaquemine, whose body was found in a truck containing chemical wastes.

In Providence, R.I., two state agencies charged that several corporations played a significant part in placing explosive and toxic chemicals in a dump on a farm owned by Warren V. Picillo near Coventry.

Assistant Attorney General Allen P. Rubins declined to name the companies, including some out-of-state businesses, until the motion is filed with Judge Donald F. Shea by early next week.

Last year, the judge ordered that the dump be cleaned up.

He later found Picillo in contempt of an order to dispose of the chemicals. That operation has been at a standstill during renewed court hearings.

The state Department of Environmental Management, concerned that the chemicals are seeping toward the Monrover watershed, said it will file a final plan with the court to remove the chemicals still on the site.