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NATIONAL NEWS

# PCB Almost Put On Iowa Roads

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A solvent containing enough of the highly toxic substance PCB to kill or cripple almost everyone in Iowa was about to be spread on the state's gravel roads, an official said Saturday.

Pete Hamlin, a state Department of Environmental Quality official, said disaster may have been averted by detection of the substance.

The solvent contained polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a thick, colorless and odorless liquid that is almost indestructible, he said. PCB can cause cancer and birth defects if ingested and has been held responsible for deaths throughout the world, Hamlin said.

The substance was mistaken by a trucker for crankcase oil and would have been spread on dusty gravel roads, he said.

Hamlin said the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Kansas City informed him Thursday of the 10,000-gallon shipment containing the PCB and he located the truck Friday.

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