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Few PCBs found at Ellisville dump

Insignificant amounts
in tests, Monsanto says

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Insignificant amounts of PCBs were found in samples taken from an unauthorized dump near Ellisville, according to tests conducted by Monsanto Co.

Monsanto was the sole manufacturer of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and some authorities now believe they cause cancer, a theory denied by Monsanto. Monsanto stopped making PCBs in 1977.

GOV. JOSEPH P. Teasdale toured the dump last month and said Monsanto should pay the cost of cleaning up all unauthorized PCB dumps in Missouri.

Dr. John H. Craddock, manager of product and environmental protection for Monsanto, said traces of the chemical were found in one of five samples taken from the Caulks Creek area.

That sample contained four parts per million, which is far below the federal standard of 50 parts per million, Craddock said Thursday.

Craddock said the material can be disposed of with no special precautions.

In another development, Teasdale inspected the St. Francois County landfill Thursday, near Desloge, Mo., about 70 miles south of St. Louis.

The landfill, owned by a non-profit group, said lead mine.

TEASDALE SAID HE would take action to halt the pollution of the Big River and the atmosphere by lead tailings from the site. The tailings are a byproduct of lead mining.

"This is poisoning the fish, the river, the air and ultimately hurting the people," Teasdale said after a five-minute tour of the area.

Teasdale said he has asked St. Joe Lead Co. former operator of the mine, to clean up the site.

The state Department of Resources estimated it would cost \$300,000 to clean up the site and wants the money included in their budget, but Teasdale said he wants the lead company to pay for the cleanup.

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