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Thursday meeting to set PCB hearing dates

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INDIANAPOLIS — Each of the parties involved in the original public hearings on PCB pollution in the Bloomington area will meet with the Environmental Management Board hearing officer in Indianapolis Thursday morning to decide when and where the hearings will be resumed.

HEARING OFFICER, Wayne Penrod said the date-setting meeting will take place despite an attempt by the Westinghouse Corp. to block the reopening of the hearings. Attorneys for Westinghouse filed a motion with the Environmental Management Board asking that seeks a delay in all hearings until Westinghouse receives proper notice and the legal justification for having the hearings.

The hearings are expected to focus on pollution at landfills not mentioned at the original hearings. The City of Bloomington has filed a \$329 million damage suit against Westinghouse and the Monsanto

Chemical Co. (the developer of the chemical).

Those expected to attend the meeting include attorneys for Westinghouse, attorneys Scott Fore and Joseph Karaganis representing the City of Bloomington, a representative of the Bloomington Utilities Service Board, Monroe County Prosecutor Barry Brown, representatives from the Monroe County Commissioners, Monroe County Health Department, the Attorney General's office, the Indiana Public Interest Research Group and someone representing the estate of Ray Neal (owner of two dumps west of Bloomington where PCB-contaminated materials were dumped).

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are complex chemical compounds used in an oil base as an insulating fluid inside electrical equipment. They are suspected of causing a variety of health problems in humans including cancer and birth defects. PCBs were banned by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1979.