void crops near PCB spills, warns Graham

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By STEVE ADAMS

re Commissioner James A. Graham warned last "any direct human consumption" of crops ards of any of the 270 miles of PCB spills in the

uld also apply to pasture and hay for feed," id in a news release. "In corn for silage, we that the first five or six rows be left and

the Department of Agriculture collected sam- to 70 feet from the spills, Graham said he was ing the 300-yard buffer zone as a safety precau-

no way to determine the exact situation in every field along the 270 miles of roads, but we certainly advise all involved to exercise caution in using these crops," Graham said.

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) have been connected with liver disorders, acne and other disorders. Large doses have caused cancer in laboratory animals.

State education and health officials at a meeting in Raleigh Friday advised local school representatives from the 15 counties where PCB spills have been found to consider routing buses around the spills and to try to keep youngsters away from contaminated areas.

Dr. John M. MacCormack, head of the communicable disease branch of the state Division of Health Services, said precautions should be taken even though the spills are not believed to pose a serious health problem.

"In general, we want to keep kids out of these sites, not because there's an immediate risk of picking up any great amount . . . but because it's better to be more conservative than not conservative enough," he said.

Where to dispose of the 40,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil already found and soon to be scraped up was on the minds of other state officials who began investigating three new possible burial sites on Friday.

A pasture near the State Fairgrounds, which emerged as a likely site on Thursday, is still under consideration but its water table is higher than Environmental Protection Agency regulations allow.

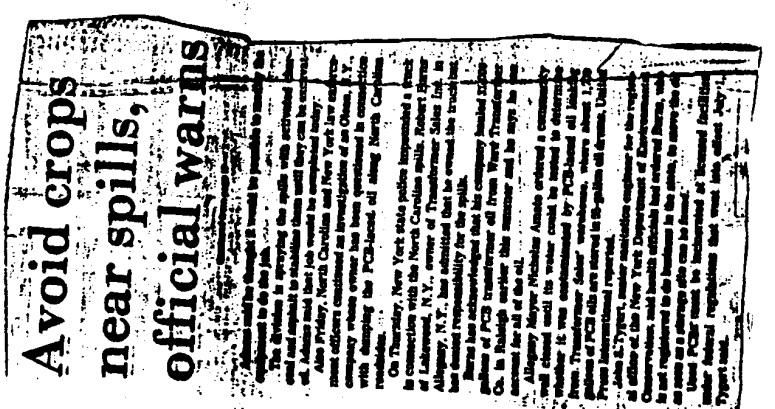
James P. Stamey, assistant director of sanitation for the Division of Health Services, said at least two of the prospective sites were privately owned, but he refused to disclose their locations. The owners have offered their land for use as a dump site, he said.

EPA regulations require the water table to be at least feet below a dump site. The water table is 17 to 3 below the surface at the fairground site, Stamey said

But the water table was even higher at all of the then 39 sites that have already been rejected. Stamey EPA could waive the rule if an effective barrier of c plastic were used to line the dump site.

M.C. Adams, manager of the Highway Division, plans to scrape the spills and haul them to the site hit on Thursday. The division had planned to use a vac truck to suck up contaminated soil but the vacuum pr ineffective, he said.

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Avoid crops near spills, official warns

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