Partly cloudy
Partly cloudy and hazy with highs in low 90s. Chance of thunderstorms. Details, page 2.

The News and

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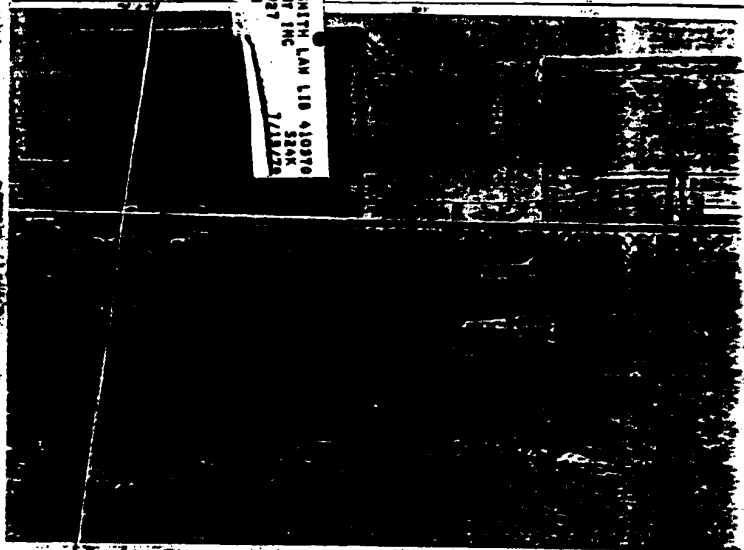

Truck under investigation in PCB spill at state garage on Blue Ridge Road ... truck or left has tank inside capable of carrying liq...

Raleigh man owns building holding PCBs, records say

By STEVE ADAMS
and SARAH SPENCE MOSS
News writers

County records in New York show that R.E. Ward of Raleigh owns an Allegany, N.Y., warehouse under investigation in connection with 30 miles of apparently deliberate PCB spills in North Carolina, Cattaraugus County, N.Y., officials said Tuesday.

Also Monday, North Carolina EPA agents in special type trucks impounded in connection with the PCB spills, one with New York license plates and equipped with a cylindrical tank in the [illegible] compartment, ... The other truck being investigated was [illegible]

Carolina plains and is registered to Southeastern Shedding and Tool Co. Inc. on Baker Road in Raleigh. ... Ward, owner of Ward Transformer Co. in Raleigh, has acknowledged paying Transformer Sales Co., also of Allegany, N.Y., $70,000 to dispose of 31,000 gallons of used PCB oils.

Both Ward and Robert Burns, owner of Transformer Sales, have testified, however, that the PCB-based oils were handled legally.

About 10,000 gallons of PCB oils are being moved 30 gallons drums to the Allegany warehouse. [illegible]

County records show that Ward sold Transformer Sales in 1977 to Olean Trading Corp., which, in 1977, sold it to Robert E. Ward, doing business as Co. Cattaraugus County A... Daniels Tabloid said in a telephone interview ...

Ward Co.'s county business records, [illegible] lists Ward's name, along with an address [illegible] Road, Raleigh — the address [illegible] Transformer Co., according to a source county clerk's office.

The relationship between Ward Co. ... Trading Corp. and Transformer Sales ... unclear. Cattaraugus County officials ... But all three companies — and the two ...

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The News and Observer, Raleigh, N. C.
Tuesday, August 28, 1979

Local man linked to probe

where the PCBs are stored — have the same address — 108 W. Main St., Allegany, N.Y., Tobiski said.

A source close to the EPA's probe of the 600 gallons of PCB spills in North Carolina said Burns and Reed had a "very close business association," but declined to say what the relationship between the companies was.

Transformer Sales Co. and Ward Transformer Co. have sold trucks to each other.

Ward could not be reached, and Burns responded, "no comment" to questions about the relationship between the companies.

The two trucks under investigation in the cases were being checked Monday by law enforcement officials at a Department of Transportation garage on Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh.

The vehicle with New York license plates was a box-like van with a cylindrical tank in the shipping compartment. It apparently was the same truck New York authorities seized last week at [illegible].

According to one source, EPA agents said there was PCB residue in the tank of the New York vehicle.

Jerry F. Richmond, president of Southeastern Machine and Tool Co. Inc., said he turned the truck registered in his company over to the EPA on Friday.

Richmond said he purchased the truck from a dealer in Durham on July 31 and said his company did not handle PCBs.

The truck does not have a tank in it, Richmond said.

"You ought to look at it. It's a normal truck, except that the EPA thinks it's an abnormal truck . . . or an abnormally used truck," Richmond said.

In addition, Richmond said that the previous owner of the truck had been Glenn Trading Co. and that Burns had been involved in the transaction.

The Associated Press reported Monday that Mayor Nick Amato of Allegany had told reporters that county tax records showed Reward Co., using the Mt. Herman address in Raleigh, owned the warehouse where the PCBs are stored.

Tobiski said Transformer Sales had failed to meet the 6:30 p.m. Monday deadline set by health officials to remove the oil from the warehouse in the Industrial Metropolitan Area [illegible]. Transformer has ordered to remove the oil because the company is not registered to do business.

Tobiski said the county would move the oil today and seek reimbursement from Transformer Sales.

EPA agents are using laboratory tests to determine if PCB samples which may be found in the trucks impounded here match the PCB illegally dumped along 270 miles of North Carolina highway.

No charges have been filed in the investigation, which is in a critical stage, N.C. Attorney General Rufus Edmisten said.

"We're at such a critical stage in the investigation now. There is nothing we can say as to who our prime suspects are or what we intend to do with those suspects," Edmisten said in a phone interview Monday. "I am hoping that will be able to make some charges with matter of a few days.

"I am anxious to get on with the case because it goes on the harder it is to prose the [illegible]."

[illegible] for cleanup site for the estimated oil still is still under way, said John H. spokesman for the state Division of Health vices. Soil tests on a site near N.C. State Uni sity farm off Reedy Creek Road have been ar charges.

State agriculture officials will distri leaflets to residents along the 270 miles of [illegible] highway to warn them of the dan of PCB.

About 4,000 leaflets are expected to be di uted, according to a department official.

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are us insulation in electric transformers. They have connected with liver disorders, acne, c ness and other health problems. PCBs have linked to cancer in laboratory animals.

MONS 011378