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Worker clothed in protective garb and wearing respirator puts material from State Office Building into plastic bags.

City air may get PCBs in cleanup of building

By LOIS PECTEAU
Toxic chemicals may be released into Binghamton's air as part of the cleanup of the contaminated State Office Building.

Cleanup supervisor David K. Seiffert said he is working with state Department of Environmental Conservation officials to see how low the levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) will have to be in the building before they can be released into the air.

"The tests will tell us everything. We're working to see... before we possibly ventilate," said Seiffert, a

state Office of General Services engineer.

"Eventually it will have to be done. It will depend on what is found in the air ducts, ceilings, and between walls. First (we) have to vacuum and then wash," said Dr. Arnold J. Schechter, Broome County health commissioner.

The state building has been closed since a fire and explosion in a basement transformer a week ago blasted 100 gallons of PCB coolant throughout the room and contaminated other areas of the building with PCB-laden fumes and ash.