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Canadian pollutants to be buried in Oregon

FRONT PAGE

ARLINGTON (AP) — A chemical dumping ground near this Northern Oregon community is to be the burial site of 100 yards of PCB-contaminated earth that is politically too hot for Canadians.

The soil is being shipped from the Sheridan Springs substation of British Columbia Hydro, an electric utility that serves 90 per cent of the province's consumers.

The PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) had leaked from capacitors buried at the substation site, said David Robertson, a spokesman for the utility. PCB liquids are used, among other things, as insulation in capacitors.

Some persons have linked PCB with cancer. Monsanto, the sole producer, has said it would stop making PCB.

Robertson said the first truckload left for Arlington, 134 miles east of Portland, early Wednesday morning. He estimated it would take 10 days and $15,000 to complete the transfer.

Robertson said the decision to contract the soil disposal to Chem-Nuclear of Portland and Kirkland, Wash., came after protests in British Columbia.

"We did have permission to bury it in British Columbia," Robertson said. "The environmental people said there is nothing wrong with burying it in Brit-

ish Columbia, but the local people became quite upset.

"They just didn't want to have anything to do with it," he said.

Stu Corbett, chemical safety officer for Chem-Nuclear, said the burial site would be monitored constantly for release of the PCB. He said the site was surrounded by bedrock and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"They could have buried it up there (in Canada) but it's a political thing," said Jack Peabody of Chem-Nuclear's office in Portland.