Kerr-Tar Council blasts PCB report

The Associated Press

A draft environmental impact statement prepared by the state on PCB storage in Warren County has been criticized as a sham by the Kerr-Tar Council of Governments.

The regional planning agency's board, in a response to the environmental report, said the statement was merely a modification of the state's plan to bury the toxic material.

The state has bought land near Afton in Warren County to bury the material, which was dumped along 210 miles of roadside in 15 counties in 1978.

Ninian Beall, a planner for the five-county council, said the impact statement made some modifications "in response to Environmental Protection Agency recommendations and pressure from Warren County, but as far as impact on the environment if the dump leaks, it doesn't even address the question, which we think is crucial."

The statement contains only a one-paragraph chapter on the impact on the environment, Beall said.

Beall and Warren County Manager Glen Newsome said the major concern was whether ground water could be damaged if the dump leaks. Beall said the impact statement did not address the question of how far PCB contamination could be carried through the water table.

Newsome said the state seemed "more concerned about plant and animal life than human life."

In addition to Warren County, the Kerr-Tar Council of Governments includes Vance, Granville, Person and Franklin counties.

PCB-ARCH-EXT0378561