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Other Oil Tested

PCB Contamination Disposed of in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa — (AP) — The Iowa Department of Environmental Quality has begun disposing of 17,000 gallons of waste oil contaminated with deadly PCB and has determined that another batch of oil being tested was not contaminated.

Larry Crane, DEQ executive director, said tests had confirmed that waste oil being held under guard at Cedar Falls contained no PCB — polychlorinated biphenol — or other toxic chemicals.

PCB, used as a liquid electrical insulator in transformers and motors, can cause cancer, birth defects or death if ingested. The PCB-contaminated oil was shipped here from Minnesota for use in controlling dust on roads.

SAMPLES FROM tanks at Cedar Falls were checked by the State Hygienic Laboratory and by a federal Environmental Protection Agency laboratory in Kansas City, Crane said.

Tests are not complete on a tank in Fort Dodge and another in Marion. Once those tests are in "we hope the problem is finally over," said Pete Hamlin, a spokesman for the DEQ.

Contaminated waste oil being stored in Fort Dodge and Marion will be trucked to a Canadian plant for incineration.

The cost of disposal will be guaranteed by the state.

"WE'RE PROBABLY talking about $30,000," said Hamlin. "There's a legal issue here, so it's hard to say who will finally end up paying the costs."

The contaminated oil was first discovered in mid-March, before any of it was sprayed on roads. Hamlin said at the time that it contained enough PCB to kill or cripple almost everyone in Iowa.

The contaminated oil reportedly was picked up by mistake in St. Paul, Minn., and was shipped here.

Monsanto Industrial Chemical Co., St. Louis, is the only U.S. manufacturer of PCB. It has announced plans to discontinue production late this year.

In 1968, some 1,000 Japanese accidentally ate rice contaminated with PCB. Some died and others suffered ill effects, including ulcers, jaundice, swelling, loss of hair and birth defects.

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