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Toxic waste dump found in Bloomington

United Press International

BLOOMINGTON — A dump site containing a large amount of PCB-contaminated electric components has been found on the city's northwest side, officials disclosed Wednesday.

Observers said the new waste site could be larger than either the Lemon Lane dump or Neal's Landfill — areas which have been listed by the EPA as among the worst hazardous-waste disposal sites in the country.

Monroe County Health Commissioner Steve Creech confirmed the dump site was adjacent to the Bennett Stone Co. The property, apparently was owned by Edwin Bennett, officials said.

Creech said the Indiana State Board of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency were notified of the site within the past two weeks.

Officials reported finding electric capacitors of the type previously dumped in two other sites where the Westinghouse Electric Co. discarded materials during the 1950s and 1960s.

The capacitors also had markings

showing they were made by Westinghouse.

Indications were that the dump was used 20 or more years ago but never brought to the attention of officials until recently. Officials said a man volunteered the information, claiming he used to go to the site as a boy.

PCBs have been linked to cancer and were used in the making of electric motors until banned several years ago.

The City of Bloomington has filed suits against Westinghouse and the Monsanto Chemical Corp. for \$327 million, alleging PCB contamination of the Lemon Lane dump and Neal's Landfill in Monroe County near Bloomington.

The suits allege the PCBs reached the city sewer system and contaminated a now-abandoned waste treatment plant.

The city was seeking money for the cleanup operation.

The federal government also has filed suits in federal court at Indianapolis against the companies.