From the desk of

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WBP

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# Dioxin Level Is Down In Binghamton Building

ALBANY, Jan. 12 (AP) — New tests taken at the Binghamton state office building show that levels of dioxin and another toxic chemical are near those "deemed safe for human occupation," state officials reported today.

Air samples, taken in November by the State Health Department, found that dioxin was nearly undetectable and that dibenzofuran was below the level judged dangerous for humans. However, officials said the tests did not mean that the building was ready to be reoccupied.

A fire in a transformer on Feb. 5, 1981, released cancer-linked polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCB's, throughout the 18-story building by the ventilation system. Investigators found that the fire had also produced traces of potentially more dangerous dioxin and dibenzofuran. The building has been closed since the fire.

Suits totaling $946 M have been filed against the City and State thus far. Monsanto and GE have not been named. JHP

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