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Another PCB dump site found near Bloomington

BLOOMINGTON — The problems Bloomington officials are having with PCBs have apparently intensified with the disclosure another dump site with contaminated capacitors was uncovered about two miles northwest of the city.

Monroe County Health Commissioner Steve Creech confirmed yesterday the dump site was located on property adjacent to the Bennett Stone Co. The property apparently was owned by Edwin Bennett, officials said. But officials said no immediate hazards to public health were anticipated.

Creech said the Indiana State Board of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency were notified of the site when it was first reported in 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 two other sites — 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.

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