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# Legalities Obstruct Probe

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI)--Efforts of Iowa officials attempting to dispose of a large quantity of crankcase oil contaminated by the highly toxic chemical PCB were being frustrated by legal obstacles and restrictive federal guidelines.

About 10,000 gallons of PCB-tainted oil were shipped into Iowa from St. Paul, Minn., last week.

The Iowa Department of Environmental Quality said Monday it averted a "near disaster" by identifying the shipment and seeking a court injunction barring its further movement.

State officials said the chemical could have entered the food chain and endangered the health of thousands of Iowans if it had been spread on roads.

PCB, if consumed, can cause cancer or birth defects.

Officials said Monday the state faces serious obstacles in disposing an estimated 30,000 gallons of the PCB-tainted oil.

Federal regulations require that PCB be incinerated in special combustion tanks at the Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. plant at St. Louis, the only U.S. manufacturer, or buried at a federally approved chemical landfill site at Sheffield, Ill.