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FYI

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**Unit of SCA Services
Is Told It Must Close
Toxic Waste Dump**

**Tiny Illinois Community Gets
Court Ruling Against Site,
One of Largest in Nation**

CARLINVILLE, Ill. (AP)—The 700 residents of Wilsonville, Ill., joined by the state's top lawyer, won a round in a legal battle to rid themselves of one of the nation's biggest dumping sites for toxic industrial wastes.

A circuit court judge ruled in a year-old fight between the southwestern Illinois community and Earthline Corp., owner of a 130-acre waste disposal site 40 miles northeast of St. Louis. Earthline is a subsidiary of Boston-based SCA Services Inc.

Judge John Russell, calling the disposal site a public and private nuisance, ruled that Earthline must close the site and cart away the dangerous liquids and solids it has stored there since November 1976. Judge Russell's opinion didn't include an order closing the site but he directed attorneys in the case to draw one up for his signature. He said the site menaces residents because metal containers of wastes could decompose, possibly in a few years.

Judge Russell also ruled that Earthline didn't "show good faith and misled the community of Wilsonville and officials of Macoupin County" about the identities of wastes to be buried. Stuart Dobbs, a lawyer for Earthline, said Judge Russell's ruling contained "harsh language" and added that Earthline maintains the storage drums will last for centuries.

Mr. Dobbs said the concern will appeal any closure order.

State Attorney General William Scott called the ruling a legal landmark. He said it will force corporations to take a second look at the long-term dangers of storing corrosive, toxic or cancer-causing chemicals and wastes near populated areas. He said chemicals at the site include mercury, sodium cyanide, polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, a suspected cancer-causing agent, solvents, and a variety of acids and toxic pesticides.

Up to 1,000 hazardous waste sites are being operated in the U.S., with several of the largest in Illinois. Critics charge that storage containers corrode and leak their contents into the air or water. Disposal firms argue that they select geologically suitable sites and take precautions against leaks, seepages or mixing of chemicals.

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