

PCB landfill protesters to march to Raleigh

By LYNNE THOMSON
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Fifty to 100 people protesting a Warren County PCB landfill began a 55-mile march from Afton to Raleigh Saturday, a day after leaders of the protest met with Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.

Kenneth Ferruccio, leader of Warren County Citizens Concerned about PCB, said that after talking with Hunt Friday afternoon, the protesters' decision "was the dump must go, and the decision was that we would march today."

The group was spending Saturday night in Louisburg and was ex-

pected to hold rallies at churches along the route today and Monday.

Marchers planned to reach Raleigh Tuesday for a rally at the Capitol, said Golden Frinks of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a member of the protest.

Hunt told protest leaders that the dumping of PCB-contaminated dirt would be completed at the landfill. He pledged measures to ensure that the facility would not become a health danger and said his administration would back legislation to block future toxic dumps in Warren County.

The marchers apparently did

not have the unanimous backing of people who have participated in almost daily protests since the state began trucking contaminated soil to the landfill Sept. 15.

Joyce Lubbers, one of about 10 people who met with Hunt, said Saturday that she was pleased with Hunt's response.

"I think that we got just about all we could get, and clear-thinking individuals feel that," Mrs. Lubbers said. "I didn't know anything about this march until a few minutes ago, and I'm very disturbed about it."

Meanwhile, three couples who live along rural roads leading to the dump site filed a class-action suit Friday to stop heavily loaded

trucks from carrying the contaminated dirt along certain rural roads.

The suit, filed in Warren County Superior Court, alleges that weight limits for the roads were increased improperly last month by transportation Secretary W.R. Roberson. Roberson could not be reached Saturday.

Steven R. Edelstein, a Raleigh attorney who filed the suit, said that his clients hope to get a temporary restraining order to bar heavily loaded trucks from using S.R. 1604 and S.R. 1625, which lead to the dump.

The designation was changed to allow vehicles weighing more than 13,000 pounds per axle to use the

road just before the dumping of the dirt began last month, Edelstein said.

The suit contends that when the Board of Transportation gave the state transportation secretary powers several years ago to restrict the weight of vehicles using roads, it did not also give him the power to raise the weight.

The three couples Edelstein represents are Joyce and Lawrence Lubbers, press secretaries for Warren County Citizens Concerned about PCBs, Florence and Edward Somerville, and Helen and Durwood Patterson.

But the suit comes near the end of the dumping. About 231 miles of the 243 miles of highways contaminated with the chemicals have been cleared, state officials have said.

PCBs, found to cause cancer in laboratory animals, were dumped illegally on roadsides in 14 counties in 1978. Three New York men were convicted of the dumping.

There have been 507 arrests during demonstrations against the landfill. Opponents say the landfill will leak and that the site was chosen because the county is predominantly black and without political clout.

The state maintains the landfill was the most economical way to clean up the spill and that Warren County was chosen because it best fit the need for suitable soil and available land.

years ago from Washington, where he was an engineer. They operate a hog farm near Afton. He has followed construction of the landfill and helped to develop the group's technical arguments against it.

■ Larry and Joyce Lubbers, the organization's press secretaries. Four generations of her family lived near Warrenton until her mother moved away. Upon retirement, the Lubbers moved back from Washington, where he had been a cartographer with the Navy and she had worked for the Atomic Energy Commission.

■ Vicki Lehmann, Deborah Ferruccio's sister, came to Warren County four years ago. An art teacher at Warren County High School, she works on graphics for the group.

■ Blaine Tharrington moved to Warren County with his family eight years ago, when he was 17. A student at Vance-Granville Community College, he makes speeches and does research for the committee.

■ Henry Pitchford Jr., a textile worker who heads the Warren County chapter of the NAACP.

■ Mr. and Mrs. Henry Somerville, both 54, who are lifelong residents of Afton.

■ Clara Roberts, who grew up in the county, a nurse in New York City until she moved back several years ago.