April 13, 1977

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F.Y.I... The attached news items concerning PCB wastes appeared in last night's Post and this morning's Globe.

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Moving hazardous waste prohibited

Jefferson County Judge Charles Sheehan has issued a restraining order prohibiting a waste oil firm from transporting contaminated materials from a disposal site in Jefferson County.

Under the order issued Tuesday, Russell Bliss, owner of the Bliss Salvage Oil Co. of Ellisville, is prohibited from transporting or disposing of waste his firm dumped on the property of Al Harris, near Cedar Hill.

THE CHEMICAL WASTE is contaminated with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), which can cause liver and skin ailments if ingested, according to a suit filed against Bliss by the state.

Federal officials have said the level of the PCBs constitutes a major hazard.

The contents of the restraining order were agreed to by Bliss' lawyer, Charles Shaw, Sheehan and Assistant Missouri Attorney General Dan Summers during a two-hour meeting in Sheehan's chambers in Hillsboro. A hearing had been scheduled on the state's request for a restraining order.

SUMMERS SAID state officials will have to conduct further investigations before deciding whether to go through with a trial. In its suit against Bliss, the state asked for a $10,000-a-day fine for the time the wastes were deposited in Jefferson County.

Bliss' firm dumped the chemical wastes in the pit in mid-February. The state Department of Natural Resources began investigating because residents complained of odors in the area.

Officials said wastes from the pit had leaked into a small creek which runs into nearby Calvey Creek and eventually into the Meramec River.

After state authorities began their investigation, Bliss began carting some of the waste material away, officials said.

THE PIT CONTAINED oil drums and other materials, but the exact source of the contaminated waste has not been determined, officials said. The contaminated area could cover an estimated 2,500 square feet, officials said.

Federal officials Tuesday began hauling away up to 58,000 gallons of contaminated soil from the site.

On Monday, a 3,000-foot segment of the tributary of Calvey Creek was diverted around the pit through pipes to reduce hazards and prevent further contamination of area streams.

PCBs do not break down in nature and tend to build up in animals in the food chain, officials said. PCBs are used in lubricants, some electrical components, some types of duplicating paper and in waterproofing chemicals.

Monsanto Co., the country's only PCB producer, has said production of PCB will be stopped by fall because of pollution risks.

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