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Wilsonville landfill trial expected to resume

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CARLINVILLE, ILL. — Judge John Russell of Circuit Court is expected to resume Thursday the long trial of a Wilsonville landfill company accused of endangering residents' safety by burying hazardous wastes.

No one denies that Earthline Corp. buries hazardous wastes in its 136-acre landfill that is partially in the tiny community of Wilsonville.

BUT THE COMPANY maintains that there is no danger to townspeople, while the residents contend the chemicals, including polychlorinated biphenyls could leak out of their metal drums.

"There hasn't been any Earthline case for the last two weeks," says State's Attorney Kenneth Boyle of Macoupin County.

The village has asked the court to prohibit Earthline from burying more of the wastes.

PCB is said by some scientists to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

Shortly after taking Earthline to court, the village was joined in the case by Boyle, Attorney General William Scott and the Macoupin County Farm Bureau.

The village spent weeks presenting testimony by expert witnesses who sought to show that the landfill poses a danger to residents and local water supplies.

NOW IT IS THE landfill operator's turn, but first Russell wants to decide a suit filed by the landfill to make the village and the prosecutors pay court costs.

Early in the trial, the village got a temporary injunction to prohibit further disposal. But an appellate judge in Springfield reversed Russell's injunction and Boyle said that now the company is suing for $45,000.

"It's because they won (in Appellate Court) and want the village to pay all court fees and damages," Boyle said.