

Chemist finds toxic wastes in Wilsonville list

By Charles Roberts
Columbia, St. 107

A list of chemicals that are said to be buried in a contaminated Wilsonville landfill, says a laboratory chemist.

Dr. Albert L. Oakley, an assistant professor of chemistry at Southern Illinois University, was asked by The Associated Press to examine a list of chemicals contained in a Memphis County state's attorney's complaint against Burlington Corp., Reno's ally, Reynolds Corp. and the village of Wilsonville.

are making a court litigation against another legal of chemicals that are hazardous to the health and safety of Wilsonville residents.

"Although Reynolds says Burlington has removed what chemicals are buried there by June 30, they are not sure of the quantity or quality of the chemicals, making it difficult to assess their danger," Oakley explains.

Among the chemicals listed is "an unspecified gas," "radioactive wastes," which Oakley said "likely all have an elevated organic carbon con-

cent of which might be highly toxic."

He said the "2-1-0" hydrochloric acid and "oil" and "water" the company bury are listed in the list. It also mentions, in addition, "other chemicals and more."

The chemist said the designation, "Toxic (Hazard)" appears to be "deliberately omitted of some others. It is clearly toxic waste."

But he said the "Polymers" mentioned in the complaint "would be anything but chemicals as it is not particu-

larly toxic unless eaten."

The "Solid Oxidizer" is "a form of carbon," and Oakley said they are "probably" making compounds that are a safety issue treatment of solid organic wastes with an alkali to pick them up."

Oakley said in his original complaint that some of the chemicals are buried at the landfill in metal barrels, but he added they are stored in drums or other containers that likely lead to an escape of chemicals.

The state's attorney has a team of geologists and other

experts conducting working on site about the pending of the landfill to determine the extent of its leakage of hazardous materials into local water supplies.

Burlington officials have said they buried the landfill at Wilsonville because of the company's own combination of fuel and materials that likely lead to an escape of chemicals.

In Oakley said another chemical mentioned in the complaint, "2-Chloroethanol," is "a toxic, water soluble" and is

in the same category as "chlorinated hydrocarbons."

Oakley said the village filed their original complaint last month making an allegation against Burlington buried at Wilsonville, which is a PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCB. The company has said it has PCB in the site, but it is not in the list.

The PCB-contaminated soil was placed in metal barrels and drums in the Wilsonville landfill.

The barrels have been placed

in trenches, but not covered with soil, pending a report decision.

Oakley said some of PCB can be toxic, but not all. The amount required to cause ill effects has not been established, but the DOT, says PCB is hazardous, it is listed in the list.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration characterizes PCB as a "potential but not immediate health hazard."

The federal agency has, however, ordered that PCB man-

ufacture and distribution must end by 1978.

The only evidence of human illness possibly caused by PCB occurred in Japan in 1968, when more than 1,200 persons who had consumed rice oil heavily contaminated by PCB developed a rare disease called Yusho.

Other chemicals that Reynolds' complaint mentions include toxic lead and waste oil, as well as "various" chemicals. Oakley said the latter is "a common paint waste. Chemicals in the list, while past potential hazards."

Wilsonville PCB suit delayed for study of buried wastes

The Wilsonville landfill has been postponed until June 1 as a time to study a list of chemicals that are buried in the hazardous materials landfill.

The postponement was granted Thursday by Circuit Court Judge John Howard in Oakley's suit against Reynolds Corp., Reno's ally, Reynolds Corp.

Testimony in the case had been expected to begin today.

Oakley and attorneys had been able to review only about 100 of several dozen state disposal permits that list the specific chemicals buried at the landfill. Two permits are cited in a copy of the lawsuit that gives the list of chemicals buried.

Dr. Arthur E. Oakley, a chemist at the faculty of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, said he made about three weeks to examine the company's data and write a report.

Oakley is arguing that "Burlington is making false statements" in the lawsuit to prevent the state from recovering the costs of cleanup.

Reynolds has not asked for a judgment in the case to be entered. Burlington has argued that the information should re-

main secret because it is protected by Illinois law governing waste disposal.

Wilsonville and Memphis County are seeking a permanent injunction to halt disposal of hazardous wastes at the landfill. Reynolds charges that

the wastes will contaminate the area's water supply.

Burlington and the Illinois Department of Pollution Agency maintain that the landfill is safe, and is operating according to state law.

Oakley said he is also concerned about the potential for the various chemicals to eventually mix together, resulting in more hazardous and possibly explosive compounds being created within the landfill.