C-1

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13 more arrested near PCB landfill

From Staff and Wire Reports

AFTON — The pickup of toxic PCBs dumped illegally more than four years ago is nearly complete, but protesters continued their fight Monday against the Warren County landfill built to hold the chemical as 13 people were arrested in a protest near the site.

Fifty-two trucks carrying contaminated dirt picked up at Fort Bragg dumped their contents at the landfill Monday as more than 50 protesters tried to stop them. Among those arrested Monday were Kenneth R. Ferruccio, president of Warren County Citizens Concerned About PCBs, and the Rev. Leon White, state director of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice, said William W. Phillips, assistant to the secretary of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Those arrested were charged with impeding traffic. The arrests brought to 520 the number of people taken to jail since the protests began Sept. 15.

The protesters fear the dump is unsafe and the site was selected because the county is poor, predominately black and politically impotent. The state says the landfill is the only safe and feasible solution to the problem, that the site was chosen for its environmental qualities and that race was not a factor in the decision.

The state finished picking up contaminated dirt along 242 miles of roadways last Tuesday, and Phillips said the pickup at Fort Bragg should be completed by the middle of next week.

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