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EYE OPENER

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POLLUTION-CARGILL

1986

Cargill faces odor action

By Alex Rodriguez
Herald staff writer

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is organizing the technical information they need to recommend enforcement action against a Carpentersville chemical plant that has been the focus of citizen complaints for the past 10 years.

An IEPA official said Wednesday the agency's Maywood office is preparing a recommendation for enforcement action against Cargill, Inc., a paint resins plant targeted by nearby residents as the source of offensive odors in their neighborhood.

The citizen complaints were instrumental in last week's decision by the IEPA to deny Cargill's air emissions permit, the third permit denial issued to the company in 10 months.

"Based on the number of complaints received and the denials, Sy Levine (air pollution control manager for the agency's Maywood office) is in the process of preparing the technical part of the recommendation for enforcement action. This should be finished by April 1," said Miles Zamco, field operations manager for the IEPA's office in Springfield.

Once the agency's Maywood office has completed its report, IEPA officials in Springfield will review it and make a decision on the recommendation. If they decide to go ahead with enforcement action, the recommendation will be sent to the state Attorney

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Investigation by IEPA begins

By Alex Rodriguez
Herald staff writer

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency officially began an investigation Wednesday to determine why high levels of ethyl benzene and xylene have seeped through the ground and appeared on the Fox River shoreline across from the Cottage Avenue industrial area in Carpentersville.

The 65-acre site is 11th on the state's hazardous waste site cleanup list. IEPA officials believe an abandoned waste dump used between 1908 and 1945 could be the source of toxic leachates detected there in 1981.

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wedding card entered, and the Groom's Men," was made at a Professional Photography.

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General's office, who could file an enforcement suit against the company.

Zamco said talks with Cargill have not produced results.

"I believe we've had our discussions with the company already," Zamco said. "The complaints constitute a violation which says 'thou shall not pollute.' Even if we just have citizens' complaints, it's a violation."

Cargill, meanwhile, plans to re-apply for its air permit for a fourth time, according to General Manager Pat Heffernan. The firm's applications for its liquid waste incinerator and its manufacturing operations were both denied March 19 because of the odor complaints.

According to the agency, Cargill must either institute measures to eliminate the odors or submit proof that they are not the source of the odors. The agency's letter of denial suggests that Cargill meet with IEPA officials to work out a solution.

"Cargill has done a few things in reaction to past denials, but in our opinion they haven't done enough," said Bharat Mathur, IEPA permits manager. "I'm hopeful Cargill will sit down with us and work out a solution, and do it quickly."

Carpentersville resident Marcy Klymko, who has filed more than 44 complaints with the agency against Cargill, was pleased with the IEPA's latest decisions.

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Investigators will be surveying the site next week, according to IEPA spokesman Stan Black. The remedial investigation/feasibility study, as its called, will also involve a detailed search into old village records and newspaper clippings, as well as interviews with long-time residents.

In May, investigators will go on-site to conduct groundwater monitoring tests and soil borings. Also, air samples upwind and downwind from the site, and studies on fish populations, will be performed.

The investigation is estimated to cost \$700,000, said Susan Doubet, project manager.

"This site is one of the biggest in the state in terms of the number of property owners there," Doubet said. "We're going to have to take this thing step by step."

Doubet said the agency has little information about the abandoned dump, and hopes that the investigation will reveal its size

"We're anxious for people that do have information to contact us," Black said.

Cargill, Inc., one of six chemical plants to operate in the area since the early 1960s, hired an engineering consultant last November to find out whether it could be responsible for the toxic leachates. Results of samples taken by Cargill's consultant have not been submitted to the agency yet, Doubet said.

Other chemical firms that have operated there include International Mineral and Chemicals Co. Culver Chemical Co., Synthetic Resins Co., Commercial Solvents Corp., and McWhorter, Inc., which operates there now.

Doubet said the site scored a ranking high enough to be placed on the federal Superfund list, but doubt as to whether that program would be reauthorized by the federal government prompted the IEPA to use state "Clean Illinois" dollars for the site.

nts. *POLLUTION (CONT'D)*