

Pollution - CARGILL

'Fox' attack renews Cargill suit attempt

By PETE NENNI

The latest attack by "The Fox" on Cargill Inc. in Carpentersville two weeks ago, has renewed concern that the company is allegedly leaking waste water pollutants into the Fox River.

Following the activist's Jan. 22 escapade, in which a window was broken and a stink bomb exploded in the company's offices, Carpentersville Village Engineer Carl Caspers said despite Cargill's rebuttals the problem has been going on for almost a year.

Caspers said last week that village sewer department crews have been monitoring the leakage from a storm sewer culvert into the river since last April and have consistently found the samples exceeding state standards for pollutants.

In the meantime, a three-count lawsuit filed against Cargill by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) in November, has been turned over to the Attorney General's office and is still pending.

Caspers said sewer department workers have been taking samples from the culvert on a weekly and sometimes daily basis and have found the presence of a pollutant with a high oxygen demand in the water.

In such cases, the waste is using up more oxygen in the water than is allowed to maintain aquatic life.

According to the tests for both Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Cargill's leakage of waste materials into the river is above state accepted levels.

Carpentersville officials say state BOD levels are set at 30 parts per million (ppm), but tests show the samples being

taken from the culvert near the Cargill plant at 400 ppm going directly into the river.

The figure is 100 ppm higher than the level than what the village allows industries to send to the sewer department, where the waste is broken down to the state level.

Jim Wandell, an assistant to Caspers, said the COD figures also exceed the state requirement of 60 ppm, bringing in samples averaging 1,000 ppm. He added, that between 600 and 700 ppm is considered a high level by the state.

Wandell said tests also show that Cargill exceeds those standards set by the state for the ph, or acidity level, of waste being discharged into a river.

While the state figures call for an acceptable ph of between six and nine, with seven considered neutral, tests show Cargill discharging waste with a ph of between nine and 10.

Village engineers also claim that the company was never given a permit to discharge waste materials into the river from the storm sewer.

"We (village) don't allow them (industries) to put that much (waste) in the sewers, so I'm sure it's too much for the river," Caspers said of the test results.

Caspers added, that he has been unable to determine what chemical is being discharged and it has been difficult to convince the IEPA that any chemical waste is being dumped into the river.

Officials from the Attorney General's office say they are in the process of handling the discovery material for the three-count

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Two more acts of vandalism reported in area schools

By PETE NENNI

Contributing to what has already become a problem for District 300 school buildings during the past few years, two separate incidents of vandalism were reported over the past weekend at Dundee Community High School and Perry Middle School.

School district officials and Carpentersville Police confirm that two youths were arrested and charged with the Sunday morning burglary at Dundee High School, where a window was broken and a number of items were reported as missing.

Carpentersville Police Detective Robert Emerick said Monday that the youths, one from East Dundee and the other from Elgin, have been turned over to the Kane County Juvenile Court on burglary charges.

He added, that while most of the items that were originally reported as missing have been recovered, there are still some things, including cash, which have not been found.

In the other incident, three Carpentersville youths have been apprehended by police in connection with a break in at Perry Middle School shortly after midnight Monday and caused an estimated \$1,000 in damage.

Emerick said officers at the scene

reported that the "main office was turned upside down", while damage was also done to the secretaries' workroom.

He added, that the three boys, ages 12, 12 and 16, were turned over by the mother of one of the group, who offered to help pay for the damage that had been caused.

The weekend acts of vandalism are the most costly incidents in more than four months. In September, four youths were arrested for their parts in the vandalism of one-third of the district's school bus fleet.

During that incident an estimated \$2,500 damage was done to 22 buses, put out of commission by vandals, who punctured radiators and cut battery cables.

Assistant Supt. Joseph Scime said the incidents were the first major cases of vandalism in the district of the new year, adding to the estimated \$36,000 cost of vandalism in the district so far during the 1979-80 school year.

Although the school year is roughly half completed, Scime said the cost of vandalism has been on the decrease because of preventive measures the district has taken to help stem the problem that cost taxpayers some \$86,000 last year.

"But all it takes is one act of vandalism and that throws your year out of kilter with the previous year," Scime said.

Suit attempt—

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lawsuit, which is now before the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

The three counts involve water pollution, violations of BOD regulations and a charge that the proper steps have not been taken to prevent the spillage of contaminants.

"We're attempting to take care of whatever problem there is through the process of a complaint," said Alice

Nusbaum, the attorney handling the case.

Cargill officials say they have not been made aware of the village's findings and claim there is no problem on their end of the storm sewer line.

Keith Long, Cargill's plant manager, said the storm sewer also handles discharge from other industries in the area, as well as runoff from nearby roadways.