

Pollution - CARGILL

Residents renew Cargill complaints

1979

By PATRICIA BOMBARD

CARPENTERSVILLE—Spring is in the air. So too is the now familiar odor and the whine of machinery that some village residents are convinced is coming from the Cargill chemical plant on Cottage Road.

Recently residents have renewed their complaints about the odor, which has been persistent even though Cargill began installing pollution control equipment after an action by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency last October.

Cargill has never admitted to being the source of the odor.

There have also been complaints about noise coming from the plant, which operates 24-hours a day. And just last week came new charges that the plant has dumped chemicals directly into a ditch feeding into the Fox River.

Village Trustee Mary Srajer has been spearheading an effort to get the odor out of air for a number of years and she has been fielding the new complaints.

Last week, Srajer said Philip Horgan of 231 Wisconsin St. informed her that he had taken water samples from a pipe leading from Cargill's storm sewer line into a ditch which flows into the Fox River. She said Hogan told her the water smelled strongly of the same odor that is frequently in the air.

At Srajer's request, Ken Swartz, superintendent of the village's sewer plant, accompanied Horgan to the spot and took water samples. According to a report Swartz gave to Srajer, a sample was taken from the Cargill pipe at about 1 p.m. on April 11. Swartz said "the material was brown in color and had a bad smell. In fact, the same smell you can smell in the air."

Swartz said another sample was taken at about 3:45 p.m. the same day and tests showed that the chemical content of the water in both samples exceeded 2,000 milligrams per liter.

Swartz said he called Paul Murphy of the division of water pollution control at the regional EPA office in Maywood about the water samples and asked him to send someone out to investigate.

Yesterday Murphy said a field inspector took samples this week, but he said testing results will not be available for a month.

Monday Cargill officials denied purposely dumping any chemicals into the ditch. Plant supervisor Keith Long said there "is a possibility" that at some time water containing chemicals could flow from the 550 gallon storm water retention tank if it overflowed.

He said samples taken from the

**Please turn to page A3*

Free Press 4-20-79

Residents complain

Continued from page A1

pipe in question Monday were clear except for some sand.

Long said the company spends \$30,000 a month in waste removal costs. He said the waste chemicals go to a recycling company. "We stay away from land fills," added Long.

As for the odor and noise, Long said Cargill is working on both. He said a catalytic incinerator which should eliminate the odor will be fully in-

stalled soon. The noise is apparently coming from a fan on another piece of pollution control equipment.

Long said when a complaint was received from Horgan about the noise, he went to Horgan's home, about one-half mile away from the plant. He then phoned the plant and had pieces of equipment turned off one-by-one until the one making the noise was found. He said insulation has been placed around the fan in an attempt to quiet the noise.

911 starts Monday

Street News 4-20-79