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U.S. EPA settles for \$72,000 in penalties for sugar mill

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reached a \$72,000 settlement with a sugar mill south of New Roads in connection with discharges into two area bayous. is another case, EPA has proposed a \$4,250 penalty against a hazardous waste firm that disposed of PCB-

contaminated waste in a landfill. The \$72,000 settlement with Alma Plantation, Ltd. came after EPA proposed a \$125,000 penalty against the. firm. EPA alleged that Alma failed to conduct sufficient monitoring and samples on its discharge during portions of 1983, 1984 and 1985, failed to submit quarterly reports on sampling in -1986, 1987 and part of 1988, and discharged without a permit in 1986.

1987 and 1988. David Stewart, Alma's general manager, said the problems were the result of an environmental consultant Ifailing to fulfill EPA requirements A new consultant has been kired. "We're going to pay it (the settlement) and do a better job of watching the -f expiration dates and stay on track."

Stewart said A Louisiana environmental official said the state is also looking at discharge problems from the mill and is concerned about the effects on nearby streams as a result of increased wastewater from the plant without increased wastewater treatment. Stewart said the mill has been expanding. That has resulted in various

"shortfalls," including "impoundment of the water discharge," be said. Alma is coming up with a construction schedule. to deal with that situation. Roger Meacham of EPA in Dallas awaiting a letter from the company

said that in addition to paying the indicating what corrective action it will settlement, Alma will be required to take to prevent such an incident from take the action necessary to make the occurring again.

mill's discharge most federal standards. In the other case, Chemical Waste Management in Salphur anknowingly disposed of a load of PCB-contaminated

material at its bazardous waste landful. which is not licensed to accept PCBs at levels above 50 parts per million. An earlier load of the waste from a cleanup in Texas had been tested and found to be within acceptable limits, as had initial tests of the waste at the sile being cleaned up, said attorney Gerald

Two truckloads of waste were disposed, but when a third truckload was tested it showed the presence of PCBs above 50 ppm, he said. Subsequent laboratory analysis of the material in the second load showed it contained

PCBs at a level of 120 ppm. The company informed EPA of the problem and the agency advised the disposal firm to leave the disposed loads of waste in place, but to route other trucks to a facility licensed to handle PCB waste, Walter said. The waste was sent to Chemical Waste Management's landfill in Emelle, Ala.

"It's a quandary," Walter said, noting that the company did more testing than was required, but the material still

"So many of these soil cleanup jobs pose the problem of whether there is going to be \$1 ppm of PCBs," he said. *Even if you're doing more sampling than you're required to do, you can still

Meacham said EPA has held settlement talks with the firm, but has come to no agreement. EPA is now



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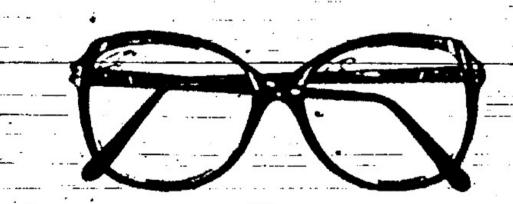
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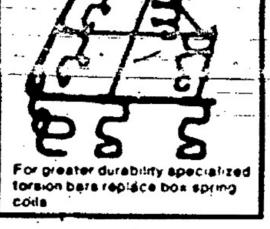
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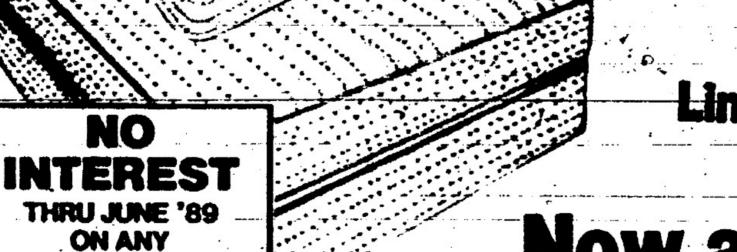
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