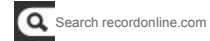


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Chemicals found buried in Ulster

By Adam Bosch

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SHAWANGUNK — State authorities are overseeing the investigation of chemicals and debris that were found buried at Watchtower Farms.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation said the pollution was found at three different sites on the 1,141-acre property. Each of the pollution sites covers roughly 2 acres.

Matt Hubicki, a DEC environmental engineer, said hints of the contamination were found in 2007 while the Jehovah's Witnesses organization was building an expansion.

"They found some drums while digging the foundation for one of their residential facilities," Hubicki said. The group immediately reported the drums to the DEC.

An investigation found that several 55-gallon drums contained chemicals, including inks and solvents that were used at Watchtower's printing press off Red Mills Road. The gigantic printing operation dates back to the 1970s, and it produces all the religious literature the group distributes in North America.

The drums contained benzene, xylene and other chemicals that have been shown to affect human health. Construction debris and polluted soil was also uncovered at the sites.

DEC officials said it appears that Watchtower workers moved the toxic soil to these sites when printing chemicals spilled decades ago. Then they used farm machinery to aerate the soil and evaporate the contaminants.

An investigation that began this month will determine the scope of the pollution and clean-up options. Watchtower will have to pay for the cleanup; the cost has not yet been determined. The site is currently enrolled in the state Brownfield Cleanup Program.

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**Lawrence**

I find this appalling. The Jehovahs Witnesses intentionally burying TOXIC chemicals in the ground while at the same time publishing articles critical of others doing the same thing and how God is going to 'bring to ruin those ruining the earth'. To think they were growing food there and serving it to their volunteer workers, not to mention polluting the ground water! How immoral and hypocritical.

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**octavi centelles**

Trial in Spain against the Watchtower for infringement of intellectual property, the sentence will be announced within two months, used a photograph of photojournalist Agustí Centelles I Ossó in the Watchtower magazine without permission or paying royalties.

<http://octavicentelles.blogspot.com/2011/10/convocado-el-juicio-contra-los-testigos.html>

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