

Pfohl dump plaintiffs file another suit

10 cases at a time every 30 days planned so as not to clog court

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Another round of neighbors and former neighbors of the Pfohl Bros. dump in Cheektowaga this week filed a second federal lawsuit against the companies accused of dumping toxins there over four decades.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court is the third negligence lawsuit filed so far in a series of suits expected to be brought against various companies.

Tuesday's suit is similar to a federal lawsuit filed Jan. 10 on behalf of 10 people who live or lived near the Pfohl dump site and are suffering from or died of cancer. The most recent suit involves 10 different plaintiffs.

About 200 people are expected to be named as plaintiffs once all the lawsuits are filed. Joseph Frazer, a former resident and spokesman for the residents, said future

lawsuits will be filed about "every 30 days."

Filing lawsuits every 30 days with no more than 10 plaintiffs in each individual lawsuit is intended to ease the burden on the courts, said Michael Ponterio, the attorney for the plaintiffs.

"It's not anyone's intent to inundate the courts with 100 cases at once," Ponterio said. "The goal is to keep them (the lawsuits) organized and orderly so it doesn't inundate the courts."

The next lawsuit is expected to be filed about March 7, he said.

The suits allege that the companies knowingly and negligently disposed of hazardous chemicals, releasing them into the water, land and air around the 120-acre dump site without taking precautionary measures.

Although Tuesday's suit lists no total figure for monetary damages, Frazer estimated that the plaintiffs are seeking in excess of \$100 mil-

lion from the companies involved.

The latest suit listed 10 companies among the defendants. They include: Westinghouse Electric Corp., General Motors Corp., Curtiss-Wright Corp., Waste Management Inc., Browning-Ferris Industries Inc., W. S. Tyler Inc. as a successor to Hewitt-Robbins Corp., Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc., Litton Industries Inc., Warner-Lambert Co., and Ford Motor Co.

The Pfohl site is located about a half-mile from Greater Buffalo International Airport. For nearly four decades until about 1970, the site operated as a dump where dozens of local companies and municipalities were known to have deposited waste, including known toxic materials such as polychlorinated biphenyls and asbestos.

Residents who lived near the site before and after it closed now contend that the toxins dumped at the site put them and their families at risk of cancer.