

School: Resident urges air tests on empty building

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would prefer to test the school under normal daily operating conditions and would most likely not pursue Keefe's suggestion.

Tony LaSorte, a health and safety hygienist for the Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services, agrees.

"I don't see the value of taking samples when the school is closed up and under abnormal conditions," he said.

The school has operated on contaminated soil since it opened in 1979. The soil about 15 feet underground is polluted with diesel fuel. The state has started cleaning up the soil and says it poses no health risks because of its depth.

Many Southside residents, however, fear the diesel fuel might be connected to the cancer cases.

The recent cleanup of industrial property adjacent to the school — contaminated with scores of chemi-

cals and hazardous wastes — also raised fears that the school property might also contain the same wastes.

The school was built on a former factory site home to various manufacturing facilities for more than 100 years.

The school property and land within one mile of the school has been subject to numerous chemical spills, leaking underground storage tanks and other environmental mishaps, according to state records.

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