

Firms may be billed for school cleanup

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CONCERN SOUTHSIDE

Two manufacturing firms could be liable for the more than \$50,000 cleanup of oil contamination at Southside High School and surrounding properties, a state official said.

In two companies: ■ **Uroks Corp.** of Lombard, Ill., successor to the former Remington Rand Co., which manufactured business machines from 1977 until 1979, was a predecessor of Sperry Rand.

■ **DaimlerChrysler Corp.** of Auburn Hills, Mich. German automaker Daimler-Benz AG merged with Chrysler Corp. in November 1988 to form DaimlerChrysler. Chrysler is believed to be the successor to the former Willys-Morrow Co., which manufactured Jeeps and cars on the school property from 1971 to 1987.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation plans to turn the case over to the state attorney general's office for further action, said Scott Rotzbaugh, the conservation department spill engineer investigating the contamination.

There is no evidence to hold the Elmira school district responsible for the under-

ground contamination of cleanup costs, Rotzbaugh said.

Meanwhile, the fuel oil is being cleaned up and poses no health hazard because there is no way for the public to come in contact with it, Rotzbaugh said.

An oil drum outside under ground from the South Main Street school campus to Miller Pond to the east, where it seeped into the water.

There have been at least 24 reported cases of cancer among students at the school since it opened in 1976, and many people wonder whether the oil and other contaminants could be to blame.

The state and Chemung County health departments say the school is safe. The agencies are investigating the cancer cases to determine what, if any, connection they have to the pollutants.

Uroks wants more information about the contamination before it determines whether it's responsible, a company official said.

DaimlerChrysler officials deny their company was the successor to Willys-Morrow.

But the conservation department believes the companies are liable for the cleanup costs because they owned the factories at the former Remington Rand site.

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