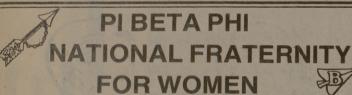
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WORLD AND NATION

Toxic materials penalty largest in EPA history

Friday, January 25, 1985/The Battalion/Page 13

CHICAGO → The Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday it is seeking the largest toxic waste penalty in its history, \$6.8 million, against Chemical Waste Management Inc. of suburban Oak

The agency filed a civil administrative complaint with the EPA's regional hearing clerk Thursday, alleging the toxic waste-handler violated federal regulations governing the "use, record keeping and marking of PCBs between 1980 and 1983" in storing the material.

Company officials could not be reached immediately for comment. The penalty is the largest ever sought by the federal government under the Toxic Substances Control Act, said EPA spokeswoman Vir-

ginia Donohua. The complaint is the culmination of an 18-month federal investigation into PCB-handling practices at the company's Vickery, Ohio, facility,

Studies have shown PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, cause liver damage in humans and cancer in laboratory animals. Used for half primarily electric transformers, the EPA banned their production in

EPA contends Chemical Waste Managément employees at the Vickery site illegally discharged high levels of PCBs into waste lagoons in an effort to dilute the PCBs and avoid the federal regulation requiring PCB fluids to be destroyed by incineration, Donohua said.

The agency charges more than six million gallons of contaminated liquid later were sold by the company

as reclaimed oil.

The EPA also charges Chemical Waste Management — a subsidiary Waste Management Inc., the world's largest waste handler — stored PCBs and PCB-contaminated materials in open lagoons and tanks that did not meet federal storage requirements, Donohua said.

The company also failed to maintain records or other documents required by the regulations, she said. "We believe that the collection of a

substantial civil fine is justified given the history of serious violations at this facility," said William H. Sanders, director of Region 5 Environmental Services Division, which in-

Discovery begins mission of secrecy

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. -- Cradling a \$300 million superspy satellite in its hold, the shuttle Discovery blasted off Thursday on a mission of secrecy to confound the Soviets, opening a new chapter in America's militarization of space.

The first of the secrets, the exact

time of launch, was revealed dramatically. At 2:50 p.m. EST — nine min-utes after NASA turned on the countdown clock for all to see - Discovery, with a spectacle impossible to hide, rose off its pad into a clear blue sky and headed eastward across the Atlantic, its thunderous roar heard

The ship, as tall as an 18-story building, could still be seen with the naked eye from the space center 4½ minutes after liftoff, 200 miles to the east and 70 miles high, as a bright but distant star. It could also be seen in Miami, 200 miles south of the

Cape.
The voices of the astronauts were not heard, because of Pentagon-imposed silence. Launch control at the Cape, then mission control in Houston, announced the progress of the flight in its first few minutes.

Have a super mission: wait was worth it," was the word sent aloft by launch director Bob Sieck. The satellite originally had been scheduled for launch in December aboard shuttle Challenger, but problems with that ship caused postponement. A rescheduled launch Wednesday was put off for 24 hours because of Florida's freezing weather. It was the 15th launch of a space

shuttle, but the first devoted solely to military purposes. Navy Capt. Thomas K. Mattingly commanded an all-male, all-military ing days will be to launch the first spy satellite ever carried aloft on a

manned spaceship.

The point of the secrecy is to thwart Soviet efforts to reposition their own ferret satellites in time to monitor the U.S. device when it is released from the shuttle and sent winging toward its duty station 22,300 miles above Earth. Once the satellite is there, over the equator south of the Soviet Union, it will be out of range of Soviet ferrets.

Sources say the satellite is the first of a new generation of space-borne spies capable of tracking Soviet mis-sile tests and intercepting military and diplomatic communications in much of Europe, Asia and Africa.

Pentagon officials, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said that the Soviet trawlers that sit off the Florida coast during a normal huttle launch were not there for

NASA, which always has announced the exact time of a manned launch in advance, would say only that liftoff would be between 1:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. EST.

Under Defense Department guidelines, the public will be told only after the fact that the satellite has been released and is enroute to

its orbit.
The landing time, also a secret, will be announced 16 hours before touchdown. Discovery is expected to stay aloft until at least Tuesday, returning to Kennedy Space Center.

Mattingly, who circled the moon in 1972 and commanded a shuttle mission in 1982, is accompanied by Air Force Lt. Col. Loren Shriver, Marine Lt. Col. James Buchli and Air Force majors Ellison Onizuka and Gary Payton.

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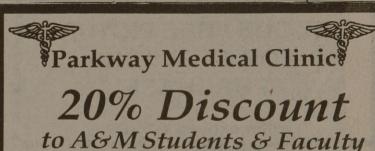
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