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# EPA pinpoints 4 sources of Woburn contamination

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WOBURN - Confirming what residents say they have known for years, US Environmental Protection Agency officials last night reviewed a report that for the first time pinpointed four sources of contamination of a wellfield here that has been closed since 1979.

Three of the sources identified by the EPA as contaminating wells G and H, which are on the Superfund cleanup list of hazardous waste sites, are companies sued by Woburn residents. Those residents charged in a federal lawsuit that the companies dumped chemicals that led to a rash of leukemia deaths in East Woburn.

The fourth source, two businesses on Olympia Avenue that have leaked gasoline into the wellfield, had not been identified previously, according to Barbara Newman, the EPA project officer overseeing the wells. She said the gasoline contamination had come from an underground tank at a truck terminal owned by the Olympia Nominee Trust and from the Weyerhaeuser paper warehouse.

Those findings came from a remedial investigation, which involved drilling 90 test wells at the site just southwest of the intersection of Route 128 and Interstate 93 and taking three samples from each last winter. Officials explained the investigation to about 80 people at City Hall.

"We now feel we know enough about the extent and nature of the contamination at the wells to begin evaluating alternatives for a cleanup," said Richard Cavagnero, chief of the Massachusetts section of the Superfund. The next step in site cleanup is preparation of a feasibility study detailing all options. Newman said she doesn't expect that report to be out until the fall of 1987.

"This is nothing new to us," said Ronald Zona, whose 8-year-old brother, Michael, died of leukemia in 1974. Zona's family and several other families with leukemia victims who lived near the wells filed suit against W.R. Grace and Beatrice Foods in May 1982 for allegedly contaminating the well site. This summer, a jury absolved Beatrice of responsibility and the plaintiffs settled out of court with W.R. Grace for a reported \$8 million.

The third company identified in the EPA report last night, Unifirst Corp., a dry cleaner, settled with residents for \$1 million in October 1985.

Zona and Kevin Kane Sr., plaintiffs whose son recovered from leukemia, both criticized the EPA for taking so long to document the sources of contamination and for not giving any indication of how they might clean up the site.

"It seems like just a toothless lion," Kevin Kane said of the EPA.