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## Groups can appear in U.S. court

BUFFALO N.Y. (AP) — Supported by Canada's environment minister, John Roberts, two Canadian groups were granted permission Friday to appear in U.S. federal court to voice concern about a pending settlement for cleaning up a former Hooker Chemical Co. waste dump near the Niagara river.

U.S. district court judge John Curtin is weighing a proposal for cleaning up the Hyde park landfill. Located on Bloody Run Creek immediately north of Niagara Falls, the dump was operated by what now is the Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp. between 1953 and 1974.

It is believed to contain 80,000 tonnes of wastes — four times the amount in Niagara Falls's Love Canal — including almost a tonne of dioxin, among the deadliest of poisons known.

The proposal, worked out among what now is the Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp., the U.S. justice department and Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the state attorney-general's office, would commit Hooker to a \$16.5-million

cleanup and monitoring program.

But two Canadian groups, the Toronto-based Pollution Probe and Operation Clean-Niagara of Niagara-on-The-Lake, Ont., said through their lawyer, Toby Vigod of the Canadian Environmental

Law Association, that they fear the settlement is inadequate.

The plan's supporters say it is the best possible because it enables cleanup work to get started immediately. Without it, state and federal officials said in a recent letter, lawsuits

would continue for years while the problem will continue to fester without action.

Roberts said the Canadian government is formally conveying to the U.S. government its concern.