

Toxic Dumping in Niagara River Is Reported

By RAYMOND BONNER

More than 500 million gallons of water contaminated with hazardous chemicals are being discharged into the Niagara River daily, according to the findings of a three-year investigation by the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Walter L. T. Hang, a molecular biologist who supervised the study for the nonprofit advocacy group, said yesterday that "if the discharges continue at the current levels and adequate drinking water filtration systems are not installed, there is a long-term hazard to the public's health." He said, though, that state guidelines for the allowable

limits of toxic chemicals in drinking water had not been violated.

Among the chemicals being discharged are several that have been shown to cause cancer or birth defects in laboratory animals, including polychlorinated biphenyls, known as PCB's, Mr. Hang said. He added that the discharges included some of the "deadliest pollutants known to science."

Thomas Viola, deputy press secretary to Governor Carey, said yesterday that state officials could not comment on the report because they had not seen it. Copies are being sent to environmental and health agencies at the local, state and Federal levels and in Canada, and

the Public Interest Research Group is asking the agencies to conduct public hearings on the findings.

Unequipped for Filtering

Donald K. Ross, the group's executive director, said that the study's findings "are of critical importance because more than 380,000 people drink water from the Niagara River."

Mr. Hang said the municipalities that took their drinking water from the Niagara — a 36-mile river that forms the border between the United States and Canada from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario — were not equipped to filter out the chemicals cited in the report. Among

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the municipalities that draw their drinking water from the river are Niagara Falls, Grand Island, Lockport and Tonawanda, all in New York, and the City of Niagara on the Lake in Canada.

The findings are based on examinations of Federal, state and local government reports and company documents that had not been made public before.

Among the findings in the report, which is to be released tomorrow, are the following:

¶ Seventy-seven industrial plants discharge more than 250 million gallons of waste water into the Niagara daily. State and Federal licenses limit their discharge of oils, grease and degradable forms of pollutants, but permit the discharge of a "spectrum of carcinogenic and otherwise toxic wastes."

¶ About 310 million gallons of contami-

nated waste water enter the Niagara through municipal sewage systems. Ten systems examined in Erie and Niagara Counties received waste waters from more than 700 industrial plants.

¶ A state and Federal group has located more than 200 hazardous landfills in Erie and Niagara Counties. More than 50 are "very close" to the river. Contamination from these seeps into the ground and then to the river.

\$1.7 Million for Burned Girl

DETROIT, Oct. 10 (UPI) — Damages of \$1.7 million have been awarded to a 7-year-old girl who was severely burned as a toddler by boiling shortening from an overturned deep-fat fryer. The settlement in the case of Angela Buford of Holland, Mich., was approved yesterday in Federal District Court.

Boar That Attacked Farms Slain by a Hunter in Georgia

MARTINEZ, Ga., Oct. 10 (UPI) — A 300-pound wild boar that had gored and slashed horses and a mule over a two-week period was found today by a pack of hunting dogs and shot to death when it stopped to fight in a creek.

Roscoe Davis, a hunter, shot the boar twice after a three-mile chase through woods near here.

"There were five dogs on him when I came up on him," Mr. Davis said. "I had to shoot him. He was cutting my dogs. We were intending to tie him down, but I didn't want to play with him in that water."