



## RIVER

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program as a questionable proposition.

Clancy, for one, wants to give a \$10 million two-year cleanup study by seven area paper companies and the Department of Natural Resources a chance to solve the problem.

He said it's premature to support the Superfund program with an estimated cost of a few hundred million dollars to \$3 billion when there may be a regional answer.

"Let's not just jump into this. You're going to have a loss of aesthetic environment," said Clancy. "Let's find out if there's a better solution before going after it with people who are hell-bent to clean it up and leave."

But Clancy allowed for the determination of environmentalists pushing for the Superfund designation.

"There are dedicated activists and they're sick of waiting," he

said. "You can't fault them. It has been put off."

Trustee Richard Schroeder answered criticism that the cleanup would place a negative stigma on the riverfront communities, hurting business and tourism.

"Name me five Superfund sites," he asked, pointing out that most people can only remember Love Canal, the first and most-publicized federal cleanup effort. "You can't name others. There's no stigma. You're cleaning up the river."

Trustee Keith Block said there should be a mechanism to spread the dredging cost out among taxpayers nationwide and consumers of paper products, not just leaving it to the mills responsible for dumping the PCBs.

"The economy of the region suffers if the companies have to foot the bill. . . Whoever's on that list is going to be dead in the water and that means how many jobs? If there's a \$3 billion cost," he said, "It's not layoffs. It's (plant) closings."