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Coal dust causes concern

By PHIL MURRAY
Staff Writer

NEWPORT NEWS — Despite assurances from state officials that coal dust pollution standards are being met by downtown coal piers, nearby residents continue to have problems with the tiny black particles.

The dust, which is blown from huge piles of coal waiting to be loaded on ships and barges, covers inside windowsills, coats curtains and blinds, clings to clothes and is breathed by some residents for aggravating breathing ailments.

"It's gotten better since summer," said Gloria Tabb, who lives in Harbor Homes apartments on Terminal Avenue. "But the problem will always be here because of the coal sitting on the ground. The least little wind will blow across the piles and send it over here."

Shortly after the opening in March of the terminal operated by Dominion Terminal Associates, the residents complained bitterly about dark dust clouds moving through the neighborhood on windy days.

Dominion and its neighbor on the Newport News waterfront, the A. T. Massey Coal Co. terminal that opened in December 1982, both store coal on the ground. The other local coal terminal, operated by the Chesapeake System railroad, stores the coal in train hoppers cars until it is loaded for shipment.

The state Air Pollution Control Board later passed new regulations that require the coal terminals to use sprinklers whenever a heavy wind is expected and to make the coal piles flatter and more compact.

The residents, however, say that is not enough and want the state to force the coal piers to do more to ground the flying particles. They fear that the dust may cause them health problems in the future if it is not controlled.

"It's a constant thing. I haven't seen much difference since the summer," Louise Bazemore said as she soiled a white cloth with coal dust by wiping it across a window sill in her Ridley Circle apartment.

"If this is on the windowsill,

Victims need help

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While the victims tend to be girls, the center will try to work out a boys group if there is a need for it here.

Ms. Jackson hopes for a group of 10 or 12. They would meet in a continuing program, with some members "graduating," and other new members joining.

In 1983 authorities identified 30 cases of abuse in Suffolk, Ms. Jackson said. The families involved represent a wide range of socioeconomic levels, as do the larger number of families she has seen over the years.

Among abusers she has seen, "we've had ministers and we've had ditch diggers," she said, "just a little bit of everything." Whatever the background, to deal with the problems caused by sexual abuse "takes a whole lot of therapy for the whole family," she said.

Help is available for children and adults in a number of programs, including a group called Parents United.

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Gloucester's Delegate to the General Assembly will appear on Gloucester Cablevision's "Cable Reports" at the following times:

9:00 a.m.	Monday	January 28, 1985
3:00 p.m.	Tuesday	January 29, 1985
6:30 p.m.	Wednesday	January 30, 1985

The program, taped in Richmond's City Hall, is a public service of Gloucester Cablevision and the Virginia Cable Television Association.

Participating in the program is Delegate Harvey B. Morgan.

CABLE CHANNEL 24



Mrs. Bazemore shows coal dust she cleaned from the inside of her Ridley Circle home.

you know you're breathing it. I'd hate to see these children have to grow up with this," she said.

Mrs. Bazemore said she cleaned the windows and blinds two weeks ago. Now, even though the windows have been kept shut in the cold weather and her apartment is several blocks from the coal terminals, the fine black powder has filtered through, settling in a sooty film inside the dwelling.

Responding to those concerns, Del. W. Henry Maxwell, D-Newport News, asked the General Assembly last week to undertake a study to determine whether the air pollution standards for coal dust are strict enough.

Tests conducted by the Air Pollution Control Board last summer found that dust escaping from the three terminals in Newport News was well within the minimum federal standards used by the state.

"We need to re-evaluate the standards because we still have problems," Maxwell said. "We need to look at it in depth to find out what the health risks are and what can be done to reduce the pollution."

A hearing on the study, which would cost \$11,375, is

scheduled this week in the House Rules Committee. Maxwell hopes to enact legislation on coal dust regulations in the 1986 General Assembly session.

City Councilman Woodrow M. Brown Jr. plans to bring up the dust problem at a February work session to see if council can take any action.

For its part, Dominion is experimenting with a liquefied plastic solution that is sprayed on the piles and hardens to form a cover over the coal.

Charles McGuirk, president of the terminal company, said the technique looks promising although right now it is very expensive.

"We're not looking at what the standards are," McGuirk said. "What we'd like to do is eliminate the problem. At least maybe we can do enough to limit it to our property."

The tests conducted last summer found no contamination above the nuisance level, said John Stewart, an air pollution control specialist with the board.

But the Harbor Homes residents, who live nearby in the shadow of the orange Massey structure, are not convinced.

Said Mrs. Bazemore, "I don't know how to solve the problem. But if that's no pollution, I don't know what is."

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Basics stressed

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placed in at least 12 advanced individual training centers by next year.

That means drill instructor schools will have to produce a lot more people," said a spokesman for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monro, which is in charge of all Army training.

Because the Army's strength will not change, the drill sergeants probably will fill slots now held by platoon sergeants. The Army, however, does not expect to make a decision on how many people it will need for the program until late spring.

Sterling, 32, volunteered for the drill sergeant test at Fort Eustis.

Initially, people expressed some doubt — some skepticism about the project, but it is obviously working. Soldiers out of basic can relate to the drill sergeant.

"We're here to help them stay proficient in common skills they learned in basic," he said.

The greatest deficiencies he has found are in military customs and courtesies. And some of the soldiers have been found lacking in map reading.

"They are taught this skill in basic, but when in advanced training they may not ever be called upon to use map reading. They get rusty," he said.

But the drill sergeant's job is easier, he said, when he deals with soldiers in advanced training programs. "They're a little more mature than when in basic. They can make more decisions on their own."

Sterling, who was an Army helicopter crew chief before going into the drill instructor program, said that when he arrived at Fort Eustis a "shock syndrome" occurred among the young soldiers.

"They thought they had gotten rid of the drill sergeant in basic and thought they were signed up again for basic training."

Now they are accepting the program and realize they are becoming better soldiers, he said.

Sterling believes the Army would benefit if drill instructors were placed in more training companies.

Sgt. 1st Class Kermit Norris, a senior drill instructor in A Company at the school, agrees the test program at Fort Eustis is benefiting the Army.

"Soldiers have not gotten enough discipline and to become a well-rounded military person, discipline has to be there. A drill instructor plays a big role in this phase of molding the troops for the military assignments," he said.

Norris and other drill instructors at the post also have recommended discharges for several soldiers since their arrival at Fort Eustis.

"They are still trainees, and if they can't make it they are no good to the Army. We need quality people, because today's Army represents high technology," Norris said.

The drill sergeants begin their day at 4:30 a.m., when the troops are awakened.

Chow is served at 5, then there is morning formation, physical training, room inspections, small-arms review and other common skills tests.

If soldiers do not pass the common task tests, they may be given additional study hours.

When they do well in skills, they are rewarded with post or off-post passes.

According to Capt. Tim Mishakowski of Tradco, there are about 3,800 drill sergeants in the command, including 250 female drill sergeants.

At installations where women go through basic training, each company has two female drill sergeants. About 60 percent of all drill sergeants volunteer for the program.

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