

TO NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIVE Agency guidelines.

Administrators from area school districts asked questions and learned more about the new law during a day-long seminar co-sponsored by Environmental Research Institute, Inc. and the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler. The seminar was at the University of Texas Health Center in Tyler.

All schools have until Oct. 12 to submit a management plan to the governor's office and July 9, 1989, to implement that plan, said Howard Cole, environmental protection specialist with the pesticides toxicity branch of the EPA.

Cole also said that if asbestos has not been dealt with properly or false information is given to the EPA, a school could be fined \$5,000 per day that it was not in accordance of the new law. Failure to allow EPA entry for inspection is a penalty of up to \$25,000, he said.

The EPA guidelines are part of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 that was signed by President Reagan Oct. 22. The act calls for the EPA to establish regulations governing the identification, evaluation and control of asbestos-containing materials in the nation's public and private schools.

School districts were asked in previous years to rid their campus of asbestos, which was once used as a heat insulator. However, the new federal law increases the requirements.

The difference in the old EPA guidelines and the law that Reagan signed is that the EPA must certify inspectors and contractors. Also, any kind of asbestos must be considered contaminating.

See Asbestos, 12-A



AP LaserPhoto

Gorby dolls

Pam Groff of Arlington, Va., is surrounded by Gorbachev dolls. The 5-inch rubber squeeze toys for dogs are

reported to be selling briskly at \$10 each. A similar likeness of President Reagan was sold out.

City, cable company watch case on powers

By CRAIG PUGH
Staff Writer

A Longview city official reacted with caution to the Supreme Court decision Monday to consider giving city governments regulatory powers over cable television signal standards.

"If the court does in fact allow cities to get in to the cable TV signal regulation business, Longview would probably look at the possibility of hiring a consultant," said assistant city manager Mike Gibson.

He also said the decision would take careful thought because "consultants don't come cheap. Besides, the quality of cable service in Longview has improved greatly over the years. The number of complaints we've been getting at City Hall have dropped way off. It appears the Long-

view Cable Co. has improved the electronic equipment for its distribution system."

Driving the Supreme Court's decision to agree to consider giving cities regulatory powers was a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in Washington, D.C., last March.

The appeals court ruled that the Federal Communications Commission has exclusive control over the quality of signals emanating from cable channels delivering TV signals that are normally broadcast through the air.

The decision, however, was appealed to the Supreme Court by the National League of Cities and various municipalities, including Dallas, St. Louis, New York City and Miami.

Their contention is that city, state and

county governments should be allowed to levy signal-quality standards on cable channels carrying TV station signals. However, the appeals courts noted that federal law does not give local governments this authority.

Sam Shirley, general manager of the Longview Cable TV Company, Inc., said he wouldn't be too worried if signal-quality standards were raised. "We are already at a very good level of quality — considerably higher than what the FCC requires," he said.

"I feel that if someone were to say, 'OK, this is the new level of quality all cable company signals must achieve,' that Longview Cable would still be way above it."

Of course, most all cable viewers have endured those frustrating moments when

their screens suddenly go blank. Shirley said the blackouts are caused by events beyond anyone's control.

"As wellgrounded as our lines are, they'll still take a lightning strike every now and then. Also, a few weeks ago a big storm came through town and blew down some SWEPCO and cable lines around 7:30 at night," he said.

"Our switchboard lit up with hundreds of callers. There's just nothing we could do but try and get the lines fixed as soon as possible. We got three men out there almost immediately, but it still takes time to get the system back on the air."

Shirley said the amount of down time for the Longview Cable Co. is still probably better than the nationwide average.

Longview chamber plans for busy year at retreat



Dumped infant