

# Florida Power Work Yard Is Source Of Oil In Creek

That mysterious oil pollution in Booker Creek finally has been tracked down. Emil Hicks, head of the City Pollution Control Department, said Tuesday that a careful search has revealed the source to be the Florida Power Corp. maintenance yard at 25th Avenue N and 25th Street.

William C. Johnson, public relations coordinator for Florida Power, said a check by the firm revealed that, when the maintenance yard was

built, "traps" designed to filter oil and grease drained from vehicles were not installed properly.

"THE PLUMBING design," Johnson said, "allowed oily material to flow into the storm drain."

Hicks said the pollution was quite serious and evidently had killed off marine life in a large area of the creek, which empties into Bayboro Harbor.

Johnson said recent dry

weather probably had exposed the pollution, of which his firm was unaware. Normally, he speculated, a higher level of water in the creek had a flushing action on the oil discharged from the storm drain.

HE SAID a cleanup operation in the grease traps was completed Monday afternoon and that the situation will be corrected.

Johnson said a representative of the Florida Department of Air and Water Pollution Control is expected to be here today to look into the matter.

City officials have asked state authorities to take formal action against Florida Power, in the first legal action taken by the three-month-old pollution control office.

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Times Staff Writer

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