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Mysterious Glowing Cloud Over New York Prompts UFO Calls

BUFFALO, N.Y. (UPI) — A strange luminous cloud spotted by hundreds of people in eastern states prompted a flood of calls to police, the UFO reporting center and radio stations but no one knows what the phenomenon was, a National Weather Service meteorologist said Wednesday.

Meteorologist David Sage said it was unclear what caused the unusual cloud, which he described as having a dull glow "like glowing gas."

Sage said he never had seen a cloud quite like it before and speculated that it might have been a noctilucent cloud, a lumi-

nous cloud of unknown substance that occurs at great heights above the earth's surface.

"Hundreds of people apparently called radio stations and police in the eastern third of the country," he said.

Sage said the whitish cloud was not part of a meteor shower that had been visible in the area in the past two days, nor did he think it was caused by pollution. He dismissed the possibility of it being anything supernatural or extraterrestrial.

Tom Bauerle of WGR radio in Buffalo said that at about 10 p.m. Tuesday "my show was

inundated with calls from people who saw a strange luminous cloud."

Bauerle said he called the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, and the center had gotten more than 100 calls from people in eastern states asking about the cloud.

"The UFO Center checked with (NASA's) Wallops Island launch site in Virginia to see if it might have been a rocket test; however, officials at Wallops Island told the UFO center that they did not launch any of the four rockets they were supposed to launch last night," Bauerle said.

He said the UFO center agreed with the National Weather Service in concluding that "it was some sort of natural phenomenon, and the available information precludes making a definitive judgment on what it was."