

15A-15 CHEMICAL WEEK
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No PCB link to cancer?

A Monsanto epidemiologist told last week's American Chemical Society meeting in New York that his review of the literature on human exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) reveals no significant link between such exposure and human cancer. The researcher, William R. Gaffey, conceded that occupational exposure to PCBs can cause mild dermatitis, but he asserted that the various epidemiological studies of workers occupationally exposed to PCBs are inconsistent with each other and do not support earlier rat feeding studies that indicated a link between PCBs and cancer. Monsanto, a former PCB producer, discontinued production of the chemicals in 1977.