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4/20/72

Japan Chemical Week

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ALIPHATICS

Power Co. To Stop Using PCB Equipment

Kansai Electric Power Co., the second largest of Japan's nine electric power utility services, recently notified domestic makers of transformers, capacitors and similar equipment of its decision to stop using equipment employing polychlorinated *biphenyl* (PCB).

The DDT-related compound, though an excellent electric insulator, has been found to be widely contaminating wild life and even human beings through foodstuffs both in Japan and abroad.

According to the notification, the company will buy such equipment in the future only when a switch has been made from PCB to a safer mineral oil in their construction.

The so-called "dry" types of such equipment employing mineral oil used extensively up to about 30 years ago, are thus expected to make a comeback.

All other domestic power firms are expected to follow suit.

PCB Study Team To Be Organized

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government will shortly organize a special panel of experts to conduct a thoroughgoing study on the effects of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a newly found source of environmental pollution.

The team will be composed of officials of seven bureaus including the bureau of public health, economic affairs and sewerage, and specially assigned experts.

It will first work to establish a *scientifically accurate* method of detecting and measuring PCB and check, with this method, all substances suspected of being contaminated by PCB. The Metropolitan Government will map out measures to prevent and combat pollution by PCB on the basis of a report to be submitted by the team.

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