Following dictated via phone
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The following article appeared in the morning edition of the Birmingham Post Herald - Thursday, December 30, 1976.

A $1,000,000,000 class action lawsuit, possibly the largest in Alabama history, has been brought against General Electric Company and Monsanto Corporation to recover damages caused by pollution of the Coosa River with a chemical suspected of causing cancer.

The suit, filed in Federal Court in Birmingham Wednesday, charges that the discharge of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) from a General Electric transformer plant near Rome, Georgia, has destroyed fishing in the Coosa and its tributaries by making fish caught there inedible. Named as the plaintiff class are roughly 3,000 persons in Georgia and Alabama who depend upon the Coosa for their livelihood.

In August of this year the Georgia Department of Natural Resources closed the Coosa to fishing within the boundaries of the State because of PCB contamination, and in November the Alabama Water Improvement Commission (AWIC) issued a warning that fish taken from the Weiss Reservoir on the Coosa had been found to contain PCB contamination "considerably in excess" of the five parts per million set by the United States Food and Drug Administration as tolerable human limits.

Monsanto was named as a defendant in the suit because it manufactures PCB, under the trade name Pyranol, and sells the thick, oily chemical to General Electric for use in the manufacture of electrical transformers.

PCB has been found to cause cancer in laboratory mice. The suit charges that the two companies were aware of the dangers of the chemical and that they allowed it to be discharged into the Coosa without regard for the health hazards it could cause.