Expert: State Wrong On PCB Danger In Game

RALEIGH (AP) — A PCB expert has said the state erred in its calculations and exaggerated the danger of eating rabbits and doves trapped along the 210 miles of rural roadsides that were contaminated last fall by PCB-laced transformer oil.

Dr. Renate D. Kimbrough, of the federal Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, said the state needs to recalculate statistics to determine how harmful consumption of animals taken from the area actually would be.

The state earlier released findings that the animals contained up to 19 times the amount of the toxic chemical considered safe for human consumption.

Kimbrough said she found the levels of PCB showed they would pose no threat to humans if the animals are eaten on a limited basis.

"There's no harm from eating the animals on a limited basis from what I've seen so far," she said.

About 25 doves and nine rabbits were captured near PCB-contaminated roadsides and were sent to the federal Patuxent Fish and Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Md., to be analyzed.

Kimbrough said experts at the center determined the amount of PCB in each animal. Some of them showed a PCB content slightly higher than the 200-microgram limit per person per day recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

She said the USDA level was based on the amount of PCB contained in the fatty tissue of chickens, not the level contained throughout the entire body of the chicken.

"The comparison is erroneous," she said. "You can't compare the (Maryland laboratory) results with what the USDA is doing because they (the USDA people) are only analyzing what is in the fatty tissue. There is very little fatty tissue in wild animals."

The state had sent its tests to Atlanta for confirmation. A spokesman for the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety said state wildlife officials will meet this week to decide if more tests are needed.

Greensboro Daily News
10/25/79

PCB-ARCH-EXT0378550



United Press Internati

Toxic chemical specialists inspect drums in Kentucky in January
... congressional probe suggests 'emergency action fund' to deal with dumps

Funds urged for cleanup of chemicals

Continued from page one

The panel recommended no specific source of revenue for the emergency action fund it proposed, suggesting the money could come from "general tax revenues or a combination of tax revenues and an industry-based fee system.

"In either event, the fund should be reimbursed by the persons who did harm in the first place," it said.

Chairman Bob Eckhardt, D-Texas, said existing chemical companies should not be charged for cleaning up abandoned dump sites for which no responsibility or owner can be found. But Rep. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., said both industry and government should share the cleanup expenses for orphaned sites.

The administration has proposed creation of a $1.62 billion "superfund," 80 percent of which would come from fees on the chemical, oil and related industries. The rest would come from general tax revenues. For abandoned and dangerous dump sites where no responsible party can be traced, the fund would pay for the cleanup with no differentiation on where the money came from.

The subcommittee report was particularly critical of the Environmental Protection Agency for "slow enforcement" of hazardous waste provisions of the 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Despite the agency's estimate that 77.1 billion pounds of hazardous waste are produced each year but only 10 percent are disposed of properly, "EPA has failed to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the location and content of all places where hazardous waste has been disposed," it said.

EPA officials, who commented but asked not to be identified, admitted there have been delays in issuing regulations to cover the subject but blamed delaying tactics by industry.

They were critical of the report for not recommending outright that industry pay for cleaning up its mistakes.

The problem is actually worse than the study suggests, the EPA officials said. In many abandoned dumps, one official said, the labels on the barrels of waste "look like the Fortune 500" and many of the

PCB-ARCH-EXT0378551