The Charlotte Observer
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
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OCT 6 1976

Firm To Halt Manufacture Of Pollutants

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., the only U.S. manufacturer of the controversial PCB insulating fluids, has announced it will quit producing the fluids by late next year.

Earle H. Harbison Jr., general manager of Monsanto's specialty chemicals division, said the firm will complete distribution of all inventories and withdraw from the market no later than Oct. 31, 1977.

The target date would be even sooner, Harbison said, but electrical transformer and capacitor manufacturers have said they would be unable to convert to other materials earlier.

PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) is a stable, fire-resistant chemical used widely in transformers and capacitors.

"Unfortunately," Harbison said, "the very properties that have made PCBs ideal and even mandatory for these essential uses, were also found in the early 1970s to be the properties causing them to persist and accumulate in the environment."

Monsanto has been named as a defendant in a $1 billion federal suit in South Carolina as a result of PCB-contamination of Lake Hartwell, on the S.C.-Georgia line. Attorneys for property owners and businesses along the lake claim the pollution has reduced property values and caused a loss of profits among businesses.

Also named in the suit is the Sangamo Electric Co. of Pickens, S.C., which uses PCB in its manufacture of electric capacitors.

PCB has been blamed as a major source of pollution in New York's Hudson River.

The New York Environmental Conservation Department and the General Electric Co. reached agreement recently for GE to contribute about $3 million toward the cost of cleaning PCBs from the Hudson. The agreement came after a lengthy hearing over leakage of PCBs from GE plants at Fort Edwards and Hudson Falls, N.Y., into the Hudson.

The accumulation of PCBs in waterways, Harbison said, triggered the firm's decision to cease production as soon as the electrical industry could find alternate fluids and convert its equipment and components to their use.

The Boston Globe
BOSTON, MASS.
(MORNING)
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OCT 6 1976

No more PCBs after Oct. '77

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS--Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., the only United States manufacturer of the controversial polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) dielectric insulating fluids, announced yesterday that it will quit producing the fluids by Oct. 31, 1977.

PCB is a stable, fire-resistant chemical that is used widely in transformers and capacitors.

"Unfortunately," a company spokesman said, "the very properties that have made PCBs ideal and even mandatory for these essential uses, were also found in the early 1970s to be the properties causing them to persist and accumulate in the environment."

That fact, he said, triggered the firm's decision to cease production as soon as the electrical industry could find viable alternate fluids and convert its equipment and components to their use.

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