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Firm Ends Insulation Line

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. will halt production of PCB insulating fluids next year because of the public's fear of adverse effects from the chemicals.

Monsanto will withdraw completely form the market no later than Oct. 31, 1977, said Earle H. Harbison Jr., general manager of the firm's speciality chemicals division.

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

The Environmental Protection Agency has found that PCBs build up in the environment and are thought to cause reproductive failures, gastric disorders and skin lesions in mammals.

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