JAN 27 1976

Voluntarily

Monsanto Ending PCB Output

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Monsanto Co. announced Monday it plans to phase out the manufacture of a toxic group of chemicals known as PCBs, which environmentalists contend are threatening public health and the nation's rivers and lakes.

F. J. Fitzgerald, a corporate vice president, said he could not give an exact timetable for the phase-out but "it would be in a planned and orderly manner."

"As soon as we are satisfied that the electrical power supply industry's needs for usable, acceptable alternate dielectric fluids have been met, by whomever, Monsanto will voluntarily shut down its PCB manufacturing unit," Fitzgerald said.

Monsanto is the sole maker of PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, which is used primarily as a nonconductor of direct electrical current. The chemical has been a necessary ingredient in most power-generating equipment.

PCBs have been used in manufacturing processes since 1930, but their presence as toxic substances in the environment was not detected until 1966 because they were confused with DDT, with which they have a similar chemical structure.

At a conference on PCBs last November in Chicago, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed recommended the federal government impose a nearly total ban on the chemicals.

Reed said he was "deeply shocked by the pervasiveness of PCBs; they are literally everywhere." He said exceedingly high levels of PCBs were found in fish from all parts of the country, indicating the nation's rivers and lakes were "in mortal danger."

PCBs have caused liver cancer and reproductive failures in laboratory animals and some workers using the chemicals have complained of allergic reactions, according to federal officials.

Environmental groups had petitioned the government to lower the permissible levels of PCBs in food on grounds the chemicals are a cancer hazard.

..Tea Table Talk.

--Further reductions at Barney Linens, Closing Saturday, January 31. Barney Linens, 300 East Lake, Petoskey. A Gas Light Shop. (10786T-65)

--Crooked Tree Arts Council is offering spring art classes for adults and children at North Central Michigan College. Children's art, ages six to 10, meets Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and youth, ages 11 to 15, meets Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults are offered a wide variety of classes. For more information call 347-2126 or 347-3124.

--We've added to our bargain rack. You may find just what you're looking for. Closing January 31st. Barney Linens, A Gas Light Shop, 300 East Lake. (10782T-62)

--Chapter 9 Michigan Independent Accountants Association meets Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m at Ricciardi's Restaurant, south of East Port on US 31. Richard Harbaugh

--Congressman Philip Ruppe's plans for District office hours in Antrim, Emmet, and Charlevoix county have been cancelled and are being rescheduled.

--Admissions to Lockwood-MacDonald Hospital yesterday include: Donald C. Freeland, Cheboygan, surgical; Mrs. Edna V. Kiel, Petoskey, surgical; Mrs. Eileen Herzer, Cheboygan, surgical; Leonard E. Manser, Elmira, medical; Harry F. Behling, Petoskey, medical; Linda M. Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Robinson, Petoskey, medical.

--Home League will hold a fellowship meeting at the home of Jessie Williams, 436½ E. Mitchell-st., on Thursday, Jan 29, at 1:15 p.m.

--Bro. Ronald Pickarski, wh recently pronounced his vow in the Franciscan Order, we incorrectly referred to as F Pickarski in a story yesterda

--The Harbor Spring Community School is [illegible]

--Lovely dinner sets Barney's Pure Linen or Easy Care. Always a welcome and elegant gift. Some greatly reduced. Barney Linen, A Gas Light Shop, 300 East Lake. (10782T-62)

--Admissions to Little [illegible]

Estel Clark officiated and in terment will be in Souther cemetery, Central Lake.

Mrs. White died Friday a Little Traverse Hospital.

She was born Ethel Krum mer on Oct. 27, 1898 in Bay City

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