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Monsanto has sold 350,000 tons of PCB in last 11 years

Monsanto Corp. has sold almost 350,000 tons of the chemical PCB which some environmental experts have charged can cause kidney and liver diseases and death with heavy exposure.

Monsanto released sales figures showing 208,704 tons of PCB have been sold in the United States and 43,881 tons overseas since 1960.

The domestic sales include 185,756 tons for closed-system electrical uses and 118,518 tons for other uses.

"It should be clearly understood that all this material is not in the environment," C. B. Cunningham, managing director of Monsanto Industrial Chemical Co., a division of Monsanto Corp., said.

"For example, more than 80 per cent of all sales in the last 12 years have been for closed-system electrical uses. It would be completely false to say all PCB produced is in the environment," he said.

The Monsanto report noted the company had voluntarily cut' non-electrical sales of PCB from a high of 18,263 tons in 1970 to an estimated 4,491 tons in 1971.

"Monsanto continues its program to control the uses and prevent the release of PCB into the environment," Cunningham said. "To date, we have cut off all sales to paints, plasticizers, sealants, adhesives and all other open-system uses."

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