STILLWATER, MINN.
GAZETTE
D. 8,500

AUG 26 1975

HHH, Mondale Urge PCBs Ban Or Stricter Controls

ST. PAUL (UPI) -Minnesota's two Democratic senators have called for a ban on PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) or at least better methods for disposing of the toxic chemical.

Sens. Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale joined the growing controversy over PCBs during a visit Monday of the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission, where they were told the commission is helping search for the source of PCB contamination of the Mississippi River.

PCBs, used in plastics, printers ink, hydraulic fluid and electrical insulators, are manufactured only by Monsanto Co. in the United States.

A commission staff member told the two senators that Monsanto had refused to disclose who purchases the chemical, prompting Mondale to urge that PCBs be prohibited or that at least "we ought to know" who's using the chemical.

When they were told that PCBs are essential to the electrical-transformer industry Humphrey suggested that better disposal methods be found.

Besides portions of the Mississippi, the chemical has been found in Lake Pepin, where authorities belived concentrations merited a ban on commercial fishing earlier this summer. Carp fishing has been allowed to resume on Pepin as long as catches are limited to fish of five pounds or less.

In addition, concentrations of PCBs not believed to be dangerous have been found in groundwater near Winona and traced to oil from electrical transformers deposited in a junkyard.

MONS 030887