

TO: Andy Johnson - B2SD
FROM: Chuck Seger - 1180

cc: E. T. Mollica - B3SA
D. J. Murphy - 1180

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FYI ---

Outboard Marine acts Sues city, state over PCB case

By Ray Moseley

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OUTBOARD MARINE CORP. announced Thursday that it has filed suit in U.S. District Court charging the federal and state Environmental Protection Agencies with part of the responsibility for dealing with toxic PCB dumped into Lake Michigan at the firm's Waukegan plant.

Company spokesman Hugh Thomas said Outboard Marine has spent \$2 million to halt the discharges of PCB into the lake and is prepared to pay "our fair share" in helping remove PCB from the lake if that is deemed advisable.

But he said the federal and state agencies have the responsibility, under the 1972 federal Clean Water Act, to solve environmental problems that originated before 1972.

Outboard Marine's suit, filed Wednesday, calls on the agencies to conduct studies to determine what action, if any, is needed to deal with the PCB in the lake.

PCB IS AN INDUSTRIAL poison related to DDT that collects in the fat of fish and animals when ingested.

Outboard Marine, the country's leading producer of outboard boat engines, contends that it unknowingly dumped PCB into the lake when hydraulic fluid leaked from die-casting machines.

The fluid was purchased from Monsanto Chemical Co. starting in the 1960s and Outboard Marine did not become aware of the problem until notified by the two agencies in 1976, Thomas said.

A spokesman for the Monsanto Company refused to comment until the company has conferred with its attorneys.

Federal EPA officials also declined to comment.

"As the situation stands, we are at an impasse," Outboard Marine President Charles D. Strong told a press conference in the Radisson Chicago Hotel, 505 N. Michigan Av.

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