Suggested Letter of Inquiry Relative to Uses of PCB's.

Carlos Fetterolf

Mich. Bur. Water Mgt.

Dear

The nature of your business leads us to suspect you may have losses of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) to the environment. As you probably know, current research in many parts of the world indicates that PCB's may be as important as DDT in the environment as a toxicant causing significant physiological imbalances, especially in reproductive processes. Like DDT, PCB's contain chlorine, hydrogen, and carbon, are virtually insoluble in water but soluble in fat, are extremely persistent, in fish and birds accumulate through food chains, and are found worldwide.

PCB's have a wide variety of uses because of their unique properties such as low volatility, adhesion, and resistance to fire, chemicals, oxidation, and hydrolysis. They are included in many products and formulations such as electrical insulation, fire-resistant heat transfer and hydraulic fluids, lubricants for use at high temperatures and pressures, sealants and expansion media, natural and synthetic rubber, floor tile, printer's ink, coatings for paper and fabrics, brake linings, paints, varnishes, waxes, asphalt, adhesives, resins, elastomers, and pigments.

Brand names of products containing polychlorinated biphenyls are:

American made

Arochlor 1100 series
1200 series
4000 series

Therminal FR series

Chlorextol

Dykanol

Interteen

Noflamol

Pydraul

Pyranol

Foreign made

Clophan

Fenchlor

Kannechlor

Pyralene

Sovol

While you may not be using any of the above products directly you may be using products containing them as additives.

PCB's have been found in Lake Michigan water, sediments, fish and birds. The Federal-Interstate Conferees on Pollution of Lake Michigan and its Tributary Basin recognized the importance of each State inventorying the use of and possible losses of PCB's in the Lake Michigan Basin and have asked us to initiate the following questionnaire survey. Your response by mail will save the necessity of having a staff member call on you for an on-site investigation. It is not our intent at present to ban the use of these materials, but we must become knowledgeable of possible sources to the environment.

Please answer the attached questions. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,

Ralph W. Purdy, Deputy Director
Bureau of Water Management

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