

Big PCB Producer Will Stop Next Year

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 5 (UPI)—Monsanto Co., the nation's leading supplier of polychlorinated biphenyl, used as an electric insulator, said today it would stop production of the chemical by Oct. 31, 1977, because of possible hazardous effects on humans.

Monsanto said the phasing out of production over the next year would give time for manufacturers to find alternate materials. Substitutes developed by the electrical industry are being tested, although they may not prove as effective in resisting fire as PCB.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which had called polychlorinated biphenyl a "significant hazard to human health and the environment," welcomed Monsanto's decision, although EPA Administrator Russell E. Train said:

"Environmental contamination will continue to be a problem due to the millions of PCBs already in landfills, soils, river and lake sediments, in our air and water and to wildlife and human tissue. This contamination will be there for years—moving into life systems, including humans."