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Board Cites Contamination

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — The State Board of Health is asking Westinghouse Electric Corp. here to halt the discharge of harmful chemicals in its wastes.

A spokesman said Tuesday a letter has been drafted and will be mailed requesting the chemicals polychlorinated byphenyls be contained or removed from the wastes.

PCBs are used in the manufacture of television and radio parts.

Tests by the health board and the Indiana Stream Pollution Board showed PCB concentration five times higher than federal standards allow in the fish of Salt and Clear creeks south of Bloomington.

The spokesman said the contamination was traced by state inspectors to the Westinghouse plant. The chemicals are believed to enter the streams from the Bloomington sewage treatment plant discharge below the Lake Monroe Dam. Westinghouse has several pounds of the PCB chemicals processed through the treatment plant each day, state inspectors estimated.

The Board of Health warned fishermen against eating more than one meal a week from game caught in Clear and Salt creeks between Bloomington and Bedford.

"It looks like there is no serious problem now, but we will watch the area closely and continue monitoring samples," said John Winters, acting chief of the board's water quality and standards branch.

State inspectors also said a Monroe County landfill was used to dump solid wastes containing the PCB chemicals before 1970 and water flowing through that area may be contributing to the problem.

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