FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

September 29, 1971

1966	Soren Jensen reported PCB in Swedish fish and wildlife.
1967	G. Widmarck published "IUPAC Commission of Methods of Pesticides Analysis: Possible Interference by Chlorinated-Biphenyls."
	This article began FDA methods development program to separate polychlorinated biphenyls from chlorinated pesticides encountered in regulatory analysis.
Feb. 24, 1969	Dr. Robert W. Risebrough widely quoted from San Francisco Chronicle Story warning of PCB in eco-system.
March 7, 1969	Associate Commissioner for Science and Deputy Associate Commissioner for Compliance asked Bureau of Science to evaluate foods sampled for pesticides for evidence of PCB. None was indicated except in some fish from the great lakes.
March 10-14, 1969	District pesticide experts were given all of the analytical information concerning PCB and told to be aware of the possibility of its presence in foods. (Pesticide Analytical Workshop 3-10/14-69.
June & July 1969	PCB was identified as a contaminant of many fish analyzed as part of Injunctive proceedings against the City Smoke Fish Co. of Detroit, Michigan. These fish also contained DDT above 5 parts/million.
	The firm was enjoined by U. S. District Court.
July 1, 1969	Eleven page Bulletin was issued to all field districts regarding PCB in fish and outlining instruction how to separate PCB from chlorinated pesticides. Information on any results of apparent PCB findings or unidentified organohalogen residues was to be reported.
Sept. 13, 1969	Baltimore District Office reported PCB in West Virginia Milk. This series of samples was traced to use of Aroclor Oil as solvent for pesticide spray. Grade A milk shippers involved were taken off production by the State.

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Dec. 16, 1969	Regulatory Action at 0.2 ppm (whole milk basis) was established.
Jan. 6, 1970	PCB analysis included in Total Diet Study.
Feb. 3, 1970	Regulatory Action at 5 ppm in edible flesh of fish established.
Mar. 24, 1970	State of Ohio advised FDA they had a problem in milk resulting from Arochlor containing silo sealant. State was told FDA would initiate Federal seizure at 0.2 ppm (whole milk). State handled the problem and dumped an unknown quantity of milk.
Aug. 7, 1970	Fish near effluent Annison Plant Monsanto found to contain PCB. Results were reported to State (these were recreational fish).
Nov. 10, 1970	Formal program for PCB in raw agricultural commodites issued. To date 15,000 samples analyzed with 279 "random" PCB results reported.
Jan. 29, 1970	New York State Poultry. Feed ration contained ground bread cartons and wrappers. PCB in feed may have orginated from this source but is not confirmed at this time. Investigation continuing.
	Action level 5 ppm PCB in poultry established.
July 16, 1971	Leakage of heat exchange of fluid caused contamination of pasteurized fish meal which in turn was fed as a ration to chickens and catfish.
Aug. 1971	Action level 0.5 ppm established for eggs. 5 ppm reaffirmed for poultry.
Aug. 9, 1971	PCB reported in turkeys in Minnesota. FDA investigation could not determine that feed or its constituents was cause. Investigation continuing.
Aug. 11, 1971	Seizure recommendation 75,000 eggs Norfolk, Va. (follow-up Wilmington Terminal). Grain and cereal composite of total diet study found to contain PCB at 0.4 parts/million level. Packaging for shredded wheat component was source of the contamination. Packaging Survey initiated by home district CIN-DO. Highest level 433 ppm found in greyboard.

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Aug. 12, 1971 — Cargill Inc., Pensacola, Fla. Heat exchange leak of Therminal 55. Not PCB related. 1.6 ppm PCB may be enviornmentally in fish meal. Investigation continuing.

Aug. 23, 1971 — National Bi-Products, Mason City, Ill. Meat scrap meal may have been contaminated at 1 ppm level. Material was recalled.

Sep. 1, 1971 — Meeting of Interagency Group with Commissioner to become familiar with and organize to solve many of environmental problems associated with Aroclors.

Sep. 3, 1971 — Conference with American Paper Institute to find out what information they could give about recycling. It was reported NCR had discontinued PCB in copy paper as of June 1, 1971.

Sep. 8, 1971 — Meeting with Monsanto Chemical Company. - Company told FDA PCB would be limited to essential closed system uses with no use in food or feed plants.

Sep. 14, 1971 — Meeting with Food Manufacturers to inform them of PCB risks in greyboard packaging.

Sep. 14, 1971 — Compliance Program issued to Regional and Field Offices to survey 15 food commodity categories for PCB.

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