READING, PA.
EAGLE
D. 48,500 S. 65,500

OCT 5 1976

PCB Production to Cease

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Monsanto Company announced today it will cease production of polychlorinated biphenyls, PCB's, at the end of October, 1977 and end all sales of PCB's when inventories are depleted.

The synthetic compounds have become feared pollutants, largely for the same lasting properties which make them valuable to industry.

Monsanto has been the principal supplier of PCB's, industrial chemicals used as insulators and fire retardants in electrical transformers. Earle Harbison, Jr., general manager of the specialty chemicals division, said they were developed commercially in 1929 in response to needs for improved insulation and fire retardation. PCB-filled transformers are used in indoor installations including high-rises, hospitals, schools and other large buildings.

But Harbison adds that one property which makes the chemicals valuable — resistance to biodegradation — also causes accumulation of PCB's in the environment. Harbison said the firm has withdrawn them from several nonelectrical uses in the past few years, as a result of preliminary data indicating a potential hazard to the environment.

He said the company would have ended production previously had the electrical industry been able to convert its own equipment more quickly.

PERU, IND.
TRIBUNE
D. 10,000

OCT 6 1976

Monsanto to stop making PCB

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., the only U.S. manufacturer of the controversial PCB insulating fluids, announced Monday that it will quit producing the fluids by late next year.

Earle H. Harbison Jr., general manager of Monsanto's specialty chemicals division, said the firm will complete distribution of all inventories and withdraw completely from the market no later than Oct. 31, 1977.

The target date would be even sooner, Harbison said, but electrical transformer and capacitor manufacturers have said they would be unable to convert to other materials any earlier.

PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) is a stable, fire-resistant chemical that is used widely in transformers and capacitors.

PCB has been blamed as a major source of pollution in New York's Hudson River.

The Tulsa Tribune
TULSA, OKLA.
D. 79,425

OCT 6 1976

Monsanto quits making PCB

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. will halt production of PCB insulating fluids next year because of the public's fear of adverse effects from the chemical.

Monsanto will withdraw completely from the market no later than Oct. 31, 1977, said Earle H. Harbison Jr., general manager of the firm's specialty chemicals division.

Harbison said Tuesday the target date would have been sooner, but electrical transformer and capacitor manufacturers have said they would be unable to convert to other materials any earlier.

Monsanto is the only manufacturer of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl), a stable, fire-resistant chemical.

The Environmental Protection Agency has found that PCBs build up in the environment and are thought to cause reproductive failures, gastric disorders and skin lesions in mammals.

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