NOTICE OF RESEARCH PROJECT

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SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION:

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION NUMBER(S):

Contract No: and/or Control No: VMH-C21-545

PROJECT TITLE:

Mortality, Medical and Industrial Hygiene Study of Workers Exposed to Polychlorinated Biphenyls

INVESTIGATOR(S):

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Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations and Field Studies

PERFORMING ORGANIZATION:

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PERIOD FOR THIS NRP:

Start Date: October 1977
End Date: September 1979
Annual Funding:

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) are a class of chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons that are widespread in the environment, are highly stable, and tend to bioconcentrate in the food chain. Their current use is primarily limited to closed systems in the electrical industry as insulating material in capacitors and transformers. Reports of adverse health effects in humans and animals accidently exposed to PCB's, and the demonstration of carcinogenic effects in certain animals from certain PCB's have necessitated an evaluation of the toxicology of this class of compounds. In laboratory animals, structural function changes in the liver have been noted as well as hepatic tumor induction in certain species. Other documented effects have included gastrointestinal, endocrinological, hematological, and embryotoxic effects. In humans, the syndromes of chloracne, and Yusho neonatorum have been extensively documented.

The mortality study is well underway; follow-up is near completion on the two study cohorts exposed to PCB. Several of the medical surveys have been completed. The industrial hygiene surveys on all plants that were included in the mortality study and medical study have been completed.

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The bibliographic references (author, title, source) on this page have been obtained from searches of the following National Library of Medicine's on-line retrieval files: TOXLINE, CHEMLINE, MEDLINE, SDILINE, and CANCERLINE. The searches made on the substances that are the subject of the test described in the Notice of Research Project usually have retrieved the most recent citations from these files. Because these searches have not been exhaustive, the investigator may wish to obtain more complete searches on the test substances by searching the NLM on-line files or by contacting the Toxicology Information Response Center (TIRC) at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P.O. Box X, Building 2024 Oak Ridge, TN 37830 — Phone: 615- 576-1743.

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TOX-TIPS APRIL 1979 35-42