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State Environmental Unit Delays Power Plant in UP

LANSING — (UPI) — The state's top environmental review agency declined Monday to approve the construction of new power plant facilities on Lake Superior, setting back plans for a \$400 million expansion of iron mining.

The Michigan Environmental Review Board put off action on the proposal because of concerns that the new electrical generators would jeopardize the water supply of Ishpeming and would contaminate the lake with the indus-

trial chemical PCB.

"We're talking about making decisions here that the Upper Peninsula is going to live with for a long time," said MERB Chairman William Cooper.

Cleveland Cliffs Service Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co., plans to use the electricity from the new generators for expansion of the parent company's Tilden and Empire mines near Marquette.

RALPH Magnuson, Cleveland Cliffs' director of environmental affairs, said the company had originally planned to start construction of the new power facilities this summer with an opening date scheduled for January 1978.

Before it can begin construction, Cleveland Cliffs must obtain a "site approval" permit from the state Air Pollution Control Commission. That body has indicated it will not issue the permit until MERB approves the company's plans.

MERB declined to act on the company's environmental impact statement after hearing a subcommittee report from committee member Fred Brown, a representative of Dow Chemical Corp.

The company plans to use 1,620 gallons of polychlorinated biphenyl in its electric transformers, Brown said. PCB is the chemical recently found in "alarming" levels in Lake Michigan trout.