Chances good for ridding Duwamish of toxic PCB

The Environmental Protection Agency today said there is "a good chance for recovery" of the toxic polychlorinated biphenyl (P. C. B.) which spilled into the Duwamish River at Slip 1 of Federal Center South September 13.

Divers yesterday found concentrations of the chemical, which is heavier than water, lying on the bottom of the river at depths up to 55 feet.

E. P. A. officials have begun negotiating for the operation of a vacuum dredge which would suck up the P. C. B. and several inches of mud and silt from the river bottom. The agency said it hoped to begin dredging during the weekend or by Monday.

The spoils would be pumped across the river in a floating pipeline to an Army Corps of Engineers dumping site on Kellogg Island. The Coast Guard has said it will close the river to traffic at the spill site, about a half mile upstream from Harbor Island, to permit use of the floating pipeline.

PCB has been linked to genetic defects in sealife and to the deaths of seals and sea lions. Although the chemical has been described as "extremely insoluble," it would eventually dissolve into the river water.

The chemical was spilled when an electrical transformer was dropped and cracked and cooling fluid leaked into the river.

Supplies taken to stranded ship

TOKYO — (UPI) — The tugboat Hercules met Japan's nuclear ship Mutsu off northern Japan today and transferred food and water to the stranded vessel, the Maritime Safety Agency said.

The Mutsu, Japan's first nuclear ship, is stranded in the North Pacific off the northern tip of Honshu main island.

The 8,214-ton vessel has a leaking nuclear reactor and is banned from its home port of Mutsu by protesting fishermen.

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