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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT -
PCB RULE MAKING

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Attached is a copy of the final environmental statement relating to the proposed regulations on polychlorinated biphenyls.

Present plans by FDA include publication of the final regulations on January 20. These regulations will become effective on February 19. Note that the temporary tolerance in paper food packaging material has been set at 10 ppm compared to the 5 ppm originally proposed. Paper food packaging material containing more than 10 ppm PCB may be used if an effective barrier is incorporated in the food package.

The tolerance for infant and junior foods has been relaxed from 0.1 ppm originally proposed to 0.2 ppm. Tolerances for animal feed have been tightened from 0.5 to 0.2 ppm for complete animal feeds and from 5.0 to 2.0 ppm for animal feed components..

Other temporary tolerances remain the same as in the original proposal. These were: milk and dairy products, 2.5 ppm on a fat basis; poultry, 5.0 ppm on a fat basis; eggs, 0.5 ppm; fish and shell fish, 5.0 ppm on an edible portion basis.

Our discussions with FDA representatives relating to PCB residues in flushed heat transfer systems were apparently successful because no PCB limits in flushed systems are indicated. The following more flexible statement has

been included: "The management of establishments producing animal feed shall eliminate to the fullest extent possible commensurate with current good manufacturing practices..."

The use of electrical transformers and capacitors that contain PCBs has been clarified and will be permitted in food, feed and food packaging plants.

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/bt

Enclosure

AA