Richmond Times-Dispatch
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
D. 144,030 SUN. 190,228

FEB 20 1976

Board to Renew PCB Monitoring

By Steve Barr

Renewed monitoring in Virginia to sxamine contamination by toxic polychlorinated biphenyls will be undertaken by the State Water Control Board, officials said yesterday.

The toxic chemical, called PCB, has been held responsible for endangering aquatic life in the Hudson River. New York state officials this week started preparations to ban commerical fishing in the Hudson.

Federal officials have said PCBs had been responsible for liver cancer and reproductive failures in laboratory animals, and some workers using the chemicals have complained of allergic reactions.

Primary Use

PCB is used primarily as a nonconductor of direct electrical current. It is used in electrical transformers and capacitors, hydraulic fluids, paints, printing inks, carbonless copy paper and other products.

"I don't believe we have any large problem in Virginia," Eugene T. Jensen, the water control board's executive director, said. "We may be more concerned with past than present use."

After discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency on where PCBs might be used in Virginia, Jensen said, the state agency will analyze ground water in areas near landfills and attempt to determine what happens to PCBs when equipment it is an ingredient of is taken out of service.

A few years ago the water control board undertook samplings and found PBC in Mountain Run in Culpeper. Jensen said the new program will provide a current analysis.

Jensen said no timetable has been set for the testing since state laboratories are "pretty badly pushed" now with examining Kepone, a toxic chemical that has closed a 100-mile stretch of the James River to fin- and shellfish harvesting.

MONS 032996