MDNS 000872

The Florida Times-Union
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
D. 141,502 SUN. 173,001

MAR 3 1978

JEA To Fill Waste Pond Because of Chemical

By JOHN J. CALLAHAN
Times-Union Staff Writer

The Jacksonville Electric Authority will fill in a 10-acre waste pond near the Northside Generating Station because the pond has small amounts of polychlorinated biphenyls — a toxic and possibly cancer-causing substance.

Malcolm Steeves, an engineer with Environmental Science and Engineering Inc., told the Environmental Protection Board's water committee Thursday that the pond has existed since 1966 and he does not know where the chemical came from.

The pond was a dumping ground for chemicals, boiler cleaning and rinse water and other industrial discharges, he said.

He said the pond will be sealed off with dikes to prevent the spread of the PCBs, then covered over with soil.

PCBs were placed in high-voltage transformers and capacitors beginning in the 1940s, when the compound was developed by Monsanto Corp. The substance was slowly phased out in the early 1970s and banned last year by the EPA.

Chuck Straton, an engineer with Reynolds, Smith and Hills, said 1¼ billion pounds were produced in the 30-year span. About 150 million pounds of the toxic substance are in the environment.

Steeves and Straton said PCBs are so pervasive that they are showing up in human blood samples and mother's milk.

Samples from the waste pond showed PCB levels at 3½ parts per million. EPA considers 500 parts per million significant, leaving it to state and local authorities to clean up levels below this.

Richard Breitmoser, a JEA engineer, said Reynold, Smith and Hills is looking into PCB levels at all the power generating sites. Officials already have found sediment deposits at the Southside Generating Station with PCB levels of 370 parts per million.