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Monsanto Denies Liability For PCBs

ANDERSON (AP)—The Monsanto Co. of St. Louis has replied to a suit against it by Lake Hartwell property owners, denying it was negligent in its manufacture of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The property owners filed suit after health officials in South Carolina and Georgia warned against eating fish taken from the lake. The officials said the fish were contaminated by PCBs, which are chemicals used in the production of electrical capacitors.

Monsanto, in court briefs, denies any wrongdoing and says the plaintiffs did not suffer any irreparable damage from PCBs.

A co-defendent in the suit is the Sangamo Electric Co. of Pickens, which uses PCBs made by Monsanto in its manufacturing process.

Sangamo has also denied any liability.

The suit claims Monsanto was "negligent, reckless, wilful and wanton and, or, guilty of intentional misconduct" in failing to test, inspect and warn PCB users of the dangers of PCBs.

The suit claims Monsanto is "strictly liable for the distribution for use of this ultrahazardous product...and for the damages which they knew, or should have known, would occur."

A spokesman for the company said, "We have no liability and we have adequately warned our customers."