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General Electric To Meet Guideline

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The General Electric Co. is prepared to meet federal guidelines in its discharge of a dangerous pollutant into the Hudson River, a company attorney indicated Friday.

Speaking after a state Environmental Conservation Department hearing aimed at halting all discharges of the chemical known as PCB, N. Earle Evans said GE would not challenge a federal order limiting discharges to 3½ ounces a day by 1977.

One day earlier, GE had rejected a state request that it cut its PCB dumping to two pounds a day by the end of the year.

In another development at the state Department of Environmental Conservation hearing Friday, GE agreed to provide medical files on 40 employes who picked up skin rashes that doctors traced to the industrial pollutant.

But GE, citing "doctor-patient" privileges, said it would be unable to provide the names of the individuals involved as requested by the DEC.

GE revealed the PCB-related medical problems when hearings began earlier this month on the state's proposed pollution abatement order.

PCB is short for polychlorinated biphenyl, a hydrocarbon used primarily in the manufacture of electrical transformers and capacitors.

The state contends that GE, which used the type of PCB known as Aroclor 1016 in making capacitors at plants at Ford Edward and Hudson Falls, has dumped amounts ranging from fractions of a pound to 116 pounds a day into the river.

After saying that GE could cut its PCB discharges to a level far lower than any previously mentioned by GE, Evans said his comments should be regarded as "off the record."

Dr. Gilman Veith of the federal Environmental Protection Agency was questioned by Evans and said that PCB discharges of 3½ ounces a day would not cause harmful buildup of the chemical in fish.

Federal guidelines allow PCB concentrations of less than one part per million.

The hearing is scheduled to resume Monday at the DEC headquarters in nearby Colonie.

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