STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT Pollution Control Agency

# Office Memorandum

TO : Barry C. Schade, Assistant Director
Division of Water Quality

DATE: May 19, 1975

FROM : Joel C. Schilling, Head
Lake Surveys Sub-Unit

THROUGH: John F. McGuire, P.E.
Chief, Section of Surface & Groundwaters

SUBJECT: Update Memo to PCB problem in the Mississippi River (No. 3)

The following is a current update of the PCB problem in the Mississippi River.

Mr. Schilling, on May 16, 1975, participated in the acquisition of fish samples from the head of Lake Pepin, Mississippi River for analysis of PCB's. The collection of fish was accomplished by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Lake City area district. A total of 25 fish were collected and filleted for packaging and subsequent shipment to 3 analytical laboratories. Mr. Schilling supervised these operations and transported the filets back to Minneapolis for storage until they're transferred to the laboratories on Monday, May 19. The three laboratories which will be conducting the analysis on the fish flesh specimens will be the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. EPA Central Regional Laboratory in Chicago. Each laboratory will be receiving 15 total fish specimens. The remaining ten specimens will be kept in storage here in the Agency for later analysis.

Mr. Schilling received a request for attendence at a meeting on the 27th of May in Wabasha, Minnesota at 7:30 p.m. to participate in a discussion with commercial fishermen in the Lake Pepin area with regard to the PCB problem in the Mississippi River. The request was made by Mr. Dan McGuinness from the Southeast Planning Commission, 149 Main Street, Wabasha, Minnesota. Mr. Schilling indicated that the Agency would request that Mr. McGuinness ask personnel from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to also attend this meeting.

An additional meeting has been set up [redacted] on May 23rd at 10:00 a.m. here at the Agency to discuss with all participating and interested parties the PCB problem in the Mississippi River. The meeting will involve state agencies from both Minnesota and Wisconsin and federal agencies that also have an interest in this matter.

The staff proposes to conduct additional field surveys the week of May 19-23 on possible sources of PCB's to the Mississippi River. This will involve both effluents and tributaries to the Mississippi to determine the exact source of these compounds.

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