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PCB Policy

The investigation of the chemical PCB in the Hudson River is uncovering some frightening aspects.

Ogden R. Reid, commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, terms the substance a "grave risk to public health." He noted further that the "Hudson River's water, sediments, organisms, and fish are highly contaminated with PCBs."

These findings have a direct bearing on Connecticut because many game fish in Long Island Sound, including the popular striped bass, grow and spawn in the Hudson.

Several fish in the Sound, including some caught in waters near Bridgeport, have been found to contain PCB levels which the federal government considers dangerous.

Connecticut, wisely, has already made a commitment to halt PCB pollution emanating from companies within the state.

It comes as a surprise and disappointment that despite the evidence, New York Governor Hugh Carey wants his state to go easy on companies which dump PCB into the river.

He stated publicly, even before the study was completed, that no ban should be ordered if manufacturers would suffer as a result.

Mr. Reid says he will ignore the Governor's position and implement a clean-up program as the facts warrant.

Mr. Carey's stand on the issue would be bad enough if New York, alone, would be the loser. But the big Hudson is a fish factory for much of the Northeast.

We trust Mr. Reid will stick to his guns and do what is best for the entire region, meanwhile seeking ways to accommodate the legitimate interest of the companies that make use of PCBs.

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