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Brogan says he won't vote on PCB ban

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — State Natural Resources Board member John Brogan Thursday urged further study of administrative rules which could adversely affect a paper company in which he is a major stockholder.

But Brogan said he would not vote on a proposed ban on dumping PCBs in state waters when the matter comes to a vote.

PCBs are liquids used as coolants and insulators in electrical systems. They are toxic substances which have been linked to cancer in test animals.

The board's Environmental Quality Committee postponed action on the rules at Brogan's request.

The Fort Howard Paper Co., in which Brogan is a stockholder, had been identified to the committee as a major discharger of PCBs into the Fox River.

Oliver Williams, acting administrator of the DNR's Division of Environmental Quality, told the committee that a PCB ban would severly hamper the operation of recycled paper plants.

Stanley Kleinert of the DNR's surveillance section said PCBs may result from paper and pulp recycling, hydraulic fluids, and electrical generating equipment.

He recommended that firms be prohibited from dumping more than 10 pounds of PCB a year into state waters without a permit.

The Fort Howard plant discharges about half a pound of PCB into the Fox River per day, he said.

Brogan said he would not vote on a motion to recommend a ban on PCBs, but said further study by the DNR might reveal ways to limit the effects of the ban on industries.

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