WINONA, MINN.
NEWS
D. 22,000

AUG 26 1975

Monsanto silent on PCB buyers

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The Monsanto Co., which manufactures polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) has refused to disclose who buys the industrial chemicals, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission said Monday.

However, Lonnie Dye, the commission's chief engineer, told the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) that eventually the source of the PCBs in the Mississippi River will be traced.

Monsanto is the only United States firm which manufactures PCBs, which have been found in fish taken from the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers and Lake Superior.

PCBs are believed to cause birth defects and reproductive failures in fish, birds and mammals.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the PCA said PCBs have been found in groundwater near Winona in southeastern Minnesota, but concentrations are not believed dangerous.

It had been discovered earlier that PCBs were present in a Winona junkyard, where machinery oils had been dumped. However, the PCA said tests showed most of the chemical from the spilled oil apparently remained in the ground and didn't drain into the ground water.

MONS 030861