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EPA EXPECTED TO CALL FOR PCB BAN

"By the conference end, an EPA call for a ban on PCB manufacture, use and importation seemed most likely," concluded the Lake Michigan Federation in its "Bulletin," after the National PCB Conference which was co-sponsored in Chicago by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Agriculture, Council on Environmental Quality, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Department of the Interior. More than 600 persons attended the conference from the U.S., Canada, Japan, Scandinavia, France and the Netherlands.

Mostly bad news was heard by attendees, the Federation noted: "Deputy Secretary of the Interior *Nathaniel Reed* said that he could not justify continuing the Federal fish stocking program for the Great Lakes unless PCB levels are drastically reduced....Many reports...confirmed that PCBs ingested in food or drinking water can cause skin lesions, interfere with reproduction in rats and monkeys, and ultimately cause cancers in man. In some areas nursing babies are being exposed to PCBs in their mothers' milk.... [Other reports] confirmed that the PCB problem could persist for a long time because of their persistence and ability to concentrate in the food chain."

The Federation urged public support of EPA publishing proposed standards that would set the stage for a ban on PCBs, Congress passing a strong toxic substances control act, and industry insisting on substitutes for PCBs.

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