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**EPA OFFERS LIMITED PCB
CONTROL GUIDANCE**

Faced with growing evidence that levels of polychlorinated biphenyls which represent serious health hazards are being detected with increasing frequency in fish and wildlife, and mounting pressure to do something about the problem, Environmental Protection Agency has greatly accelerated its PCB research efforts and is preparing to promulgate a water quality criteria level of one part per trillion for PCBs.

"EPA considers that a PCB concentration of one ppt in the ambient water environment represents an appropriate goal for the nation," EPA's toxic substances chief Glenn E. Schweitzer has informed Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources during hearings on PCBs. "We would suggest that this goal serve as very broad guidance in developing strategies on a nationwide basis and locally to control discharges of PCBs into our waterways."

But Schweitzer said EPA is "not prepared at this time to provide more specific guidance on the control strategies that should be adopted nationally or locally concerning the regulation of individual dischargers. We are developing a nationwide strategy with a significant component of our approach to be reflected in a toxic effluent standard for PCBs scheduled for proposal early next year. At the same time, we recognize that a nationwide standard might not be adequate in addressing local problems in some areas, and the control strategies adopted locally may of necessity require an elaboration of the national approach."

In any event, Schweitzer said, "we believe that better information is needed concerning the specific facilities discharging into the aquatic environment before reaching a final judgment on a national standard." He continued, "it is important to clarify the portion of the PCB contamination problem which can be attributed to specific dischargers and the practical feasibility of reducing the discharges."

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