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PCB Imports Risin

Washington, D.C. —AP— Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) said Sunday that with US production of the toxic chemical family of PCBs to end in 1977, imports of the substance have risen sharply — apparently in an effort to prolong its use.

Under the new Toxic Substances Act, all use of PCBs in the US must end by June 1, 1979, but Aspin said the sole US manufacturer, Monsanto Chemical Co., planned to end production by October, 1977.



Rep. Les Aspin

"Unless imports are quickly ended," Aspin said in a statement issued by his office, "PCBs will continue to threaten the environment — and at an accelerating rate, judging from this year's imports."

He said he would ask the Environmental Protection Agency to ban further PCB imports, once President-Elect Jimmy Carter takes office.

Asked about Aspin's statement, an EPA spokesman said the agency had no plans to speed up the ban on PCBs.

The spokesman said Congress allowed the two year delay to give industries time to obtain suitable replacements for PCBs.

The presence of PCBs in Lake Michigan fish has prevented the establishment of a commercial trout and salmon

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