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Monsanto to quit making disputed PCB

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Monsanto Co. Monday sought to head off environmentalists' efforts to ban a group of toxic chemicals known as PCBs by announcing it will phase out production of them.

Monsanto is the sole maker of PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, which is used primarily as a nonconductor of direct electrical current. The chemical has been a necessary ingredient in most powergenerating equipment.

Environmental groups had petitioned the federal government to lower the permissible levels of PCBs in food on grounds the chemicals are a cancer hazard.

Federal officials have said PCBs had been responsible for liver cancer and reproductive failures in laboratory animals, and some workers using the chemicals have complained of allergic reactions.



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