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BAN EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1979

EPA Outlaws Sale of PCB

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO—A national ban on sales of the industrial chemical PCB beginning July 1, 1979, was announced Tuesday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

It will be the first general ban in the United States of an industrial chemical considered harmful to the environment and in human tissue. PCB has been widely used since the 1930s as coolant, hydraulic fluid, in paints, inks, plastics, lubricants and preservatives. Monsanto Corp. is the sole PCB manufacturer in the U.S.

The Great Lakes are highly contaminated with PCB. Michigan and other Great Lakes states have banned the sale of certain kinds of fish because of dangerous PCB levels.

Tests of breast milk from Michigan mothers last fall showed worrisome levels of PCB. Tests by the federal Food and Drug Administration have found traces of PCB in many food products, such as milk, eggs and cheese.

A schedule for phasing out the production and use of PCB in the United States was out-

lined at an EPA hearing in Chicago.

"PCB will be banned," said Bremer flatly. "It is considered a health hazard. It tends to accumulate in human tissue, and it's suspected of causing cancer."

INDUSTRIAL spokesmen were called to the hearing to voice any opposition to the ban, or to explain how the impact of the ban can be softened.

E. M. Warner of the Joy Manufacturing Co. of Franklin, Pa., a major manufacturer of mining equipment, said the ban could hinder coal mining because of the extensive use of PCB-cooled engines in mining machines. He asked for a three-year delay.

Harry Onlehl, a spokesman for the Edison Electric Institute, said the electric utility industry has long expected the crackdown on PCB and has already begun phasing out the use of PCB.

"We recognize that it is persistent in nature and care has to be taken in its disposal," said Onlehl, adding that the greatest impact will fall on electrical hardware manufacturers who use PCB as a coolant.