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# PCB Ban Proposed By Environment Agency Under TSCA Rules

**Environmental Protection Agency last week proposed a ban on manufacture and use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in accordance with a provision calling for such action in the Toxic Substances Control Act.**

US manufacture of PCBs was voluntarily halted last year, EPA notes, but the agency proposal would bar resumption of such production as well as processing and distribution of the chemicals. Also prohibited are import of PCBs into the US and their export from this country.

The action on PCBs was taken because of possible neurotoxic, carcinogenic and adverse skin and liver effects in humans, according to EPA chief Douglas Costle.

EPA says that of roughly 1.25 billion pounds of PCBs purchased by US industries since their introduction in 1929, an estimat-

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## PCB Ban Proposed

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ed 750 million pounds are still in service, 6 million pounds have been destroyed and the remaining 440 pounds are now dispersed throughout the environment.

The agency's proposed rule would, 30 days after it becomes final, bar use, manufacture, processing, and commercial distribution of PCBs except in a "totally enclosed" manner.

After January 1, 1979, all manufacturing, including the totally enclosed operations, would be banned. And after July 1, 1979, all processing and commercial distribution would end.

Costs of compliance with the proposed regulation are estimated to be $46 million annually, together with a possible cost of an added $100 million yearly associated with the ban on the use of PCB-contaminated waste oil used to control dust on roads, EPA says.

This $100 million cost estimate depends upon whether dust control with waste oil is to be continued and, if so, what substitutes for the waste oil are used.

EPA plans to hold a public hearing on the proposal at its Washington headquarters on August 21, 1978. The proposal appears in the June 7 *Federal Register*.