sediment from the New Bedford harbor contained up to 140 ppm PCBs.

The staffer said that for 30 years two capacity manufacturers — Aerovox Corporation and Cornell-Dublier Company — had dumped over 500,000 pounds of PCBs into the New Bedford landfill. This practice stopped in early 1976, the staffer said, and the companies are storing wastes within their facilities. Cornell-Dublier also discharges pretreated wastes into the New Bedford sewer system, where PCBs also have been found, the staffer said.

State officials said no decision would be made on fishing in the river and harbor until fish samples have been analyzed. However, a task force has been set up to determine the economic and environmental impact of the PCB discoveries on the city of New Bedford.

Chemicals

FEDERAL TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS FLUOROCARBON RULEMAKING PROCEEDINGS

Responding to a National Academy of Sciences recommendation that fluorocarbon regulation be put off for up to two years pending additional research, a federal interagency task force September 24 reiterated its call for commencement of rulemaking proceedings to control use of the chemicals.

The Interagency Task Force on Inadvertent Modification of the Stratosphere (IMOS) said the academy's recent report on chlorofluorocarbon regulation (Current Developments, September 17, p. 740) "substantiates" findings made by IMOS in June 1975 (June 20, 1975, p. 368).

IMOS said then that preliminary data indicated a "legitimate cause for concern" about a possible threat to the stratospheric ozone layer posed by chlorofluorocarbon emissions. The NAS report found that regulation of the chemicals "is almost certain to be necessary," but added that up to two more years should be spent resolving data uncertainties.

In June 1975, IMOS said that if the then-ongoing NAS report should reinforce the task force's findings, then "federal regulatory agencies [should] initiate rulemaking procedures for implementing regulations to restrict fluorocarbon uses. Such restrictions could reasonably be effective by January 1978" which would "give time for consideration of further research results."

On September 21, the task force reviewed the NAS report and concluded that "the June 1975 recommendation continues to be the most prudent course of action. Therefore, we recommend that federal regulatory agencies now commence proposed rulemaking procedures so that any necessary future restrictions are developed on the basis of thorough and thoughtful consideration. This recommendation is not inconsistent with the conclusion of the academy."

Coastal Zones

FPC PROPOSES CHANGES TO CONFORM RULES WITH COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

The Federal Power Commission proposed September 23 a series of amendments to conform its rules to provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The proposals would affect issuance of licenses, orders, authorizations, or certificates by the commission in cases where FPC approval would affect land or water uses in a coastal state's offshore areas.

The proposed amendments would affect FPC hydroelectric project licenses, electric transmission facility interconnection orders, authorizations for international transmission of electricity; natural gas import or export authorizations, and certificates for extension or abandonment of natural gas facilities.

Applicants in cases where favorable commission action would affect land or water uses in a state's coastal zone — would be required to provide the FPC a certification that the proposed activity would be conducted in a manner consistent with the state's coastal zone management program. An applicant would be required also to certify that a copy of its application with all necessary information and data has been furnished to an affected state or its designated agency. The requirement would apply only to states with federally approved coastal zone management programs.

Those wishing to submit comments on the proposals should send them before November 22, to the FPC, 825 North Capitol St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. The proposals will be published soon in the Federal Register.

Coastal Zones

NOAA PROPOSES REGULATIONS REQUIRING FEDERAL CONSISTENCY WITH STATE PLANS

Regulations requiring consistency of federal agency actions with approved state coastal zone management plans (15 CFR 921) were proposed by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration September 28 (41 FR 42878).

The proposed regulations (Current Developments, September 17, p. 745) would require states to allow federal agency participation in the development of coastal zone management plans. Federal agencies would be required to act in a manner consistent with those plans, unless a plan were overridden by the Secretary of Commerce. The Office of Coastal Zone Management would act as arbiter in disputes between federal agencies and the states, and if it could not resolve a dispute, the issue would be turned over to the Office of Management and Budget for resolution.

The proposed regulations are published in the Full Text section of this week's report.

Chemicals

MEETING HELD ON PCBs IN MOTHERS' MILK, RELATIONSHIP TO FRESH WATER FISH IN DIET

If any conclusion can be drawn from a meeting held September 23 to evaluate the Environmental Protection Agency's finding polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in mothers' milk, it would be that breast feeding should not be discouraged but that mothers should avoid eating fresh water fish during pregnancy and the nursing period.

Officials of EPA and the Food and Drug Administration discussed the history of PCB contamination and levels of the chemicals found in the environment and food. Together with officials of the National Institutes of Health, physicians, and pediatricians, they discussed preliminary results of an EPA-sponsored study of PCB levels found in the milk of nursing mothers (Current Developments, September 17, p. 754).

George Wirth, of EPA's Office of Toxic Substances, said only one of 80 samples analyzed to date showed no evidence of PCBs. The levels of PCBs found ranged from zero to 10.6 parts per million (ppm) on a fat basis, he said.

MONS 085900

Fifty-two of the analyzed samples contained PCB levels between zero and the mean average of 1.8 ppm, and another 27 samples had levels above the mean average, Wirth said.

EPA-sponsored research found DDE in the same mothers' milk samples in amounts ranging from .31 ppm to 6.43 ppm.

Glenn Schweitzer, director of EPA's office of toxic substances, said the research data was "pretty good," but that a second laboratory has been asked to verify the work done at Colorado State University. He said no data had been gathered on the diets of the women sampled and no follow-up tests had been made on the women's children.

PCBs Easily Metabolized

Alfred C. Kolbye, Jr., of FDA's Bureau of Foods, said PCBs with six or less chlorine atoms are easily absorbed into the mammalian gut, but are easily metabolized and excreted. PCBs found in human milk approximate one type known as Aroclor 1254, he said, indicating that nursing human infants are being exposed to higher chlorinated biphenyls — those that are longer lasting and have a higher biological half-life but less acute toxicity.

Charles F. Jelinek, of FDA's Bureau of Foods, said a review of data on PCBs in the food supply showed that fresh water sport fish is the only food in which PCB levels remain high. These fish may have been caught in water near industrial sites, he said, adding that data is scarce because only a small amount of fresh water fish move in interstate commerce. FDA did issue warnings in May to states to take action on PCB - laden fresh fish, he said.

Charles Walker, of the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service, presented statistics that showed 90 percent of fish samples taken nationwide in 1974 evidenced some traces of PCBs. Of these, he said, 59.5 percent had more than .5 ppm and 11.9 percent had more than the 5 ppm tolerance for finfish set by FDA. Walker said in the Great Lakes region, 100 percent of the samples contained PCBs, in the Northeast, 94 percent, and in the Southeast, 91 percent.

A Billion Pounds of PCBs

Thomas E. Kopp, of EPA's Office of Toxic Substances, said that since production of PCBs began in late 1929, 1.4 billion pounds have been produced, of which 60 percent is still in service, 24 percent is in dumps and landfills, and the rest destroyed or in soil and air sediments.

David P. Rall, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, said FDA has "done well" to keep PCBs out of the food supply. He said everyone in the U.S. probably has at least 1 ppm PCBs in their body fat, adding that the body burden is the result of exposure between 1929 and 1969, when regulatory action was first taken.

No Regulatory Halt to Production

No federal regulatory action has been taken to halt manufacture of PCBs.

Environment Reporter incorrectly reported in August (August 27, p. 665) that Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Company — sole U.S. manufacturer of PCBs — had been "ordered" to cease production of the chemicals. In fact, Monsanto has said it will voluntarily cease producing the chemicals as soon as possible.

D. H. Bishop, public relations director for Monsanto, told Environment Reporter that while the company "has every intention to voluntarily shut down its PCB production unit and withdraw from the market as the principal supplier of PCB dielectric fluids as soon as our customers in the electrical power supply industry are able to convert to alternate products, we have not been ordered to cease production by anyone."

Rhesus Monkey Experiments

James R. Allen, University of Wisconsin Medical School, said experiments in feeding PCBs to rhesus monkeys resulted in hyperkinesis, loss of eyelashes, acne, and changes in skin pigmentation. He said the monkeys only showed signs of changes after consuming milk and that the intake of PCBs in the blood in *utero* was insignificant.

Kolbye recommended a study of which isomers of PCBs are transmitted in human mothers' milk compared to those transmitted in monkey's milk. He suggested a survey of the diets of the mothers used in the EPA study, a review of the methodology used in the study, and an examination of hyperkinetic children to see if their malady correlates with PCB concentrations.

The three pediatricians at the meeting said they would continue to recommend that mothers breast feed their infants. The three were hesitant to endorse a recommendation that eating sport fish be avoided, saying that the average individual intake of fish is only 12 pounds a year, and that mothers' actions outside a doctor's office could not be controlled. All agreed that further studies are needed on the relationship of PCB levels in the diets of mothers to PCB levels of their children.

Impact Statements

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS SUBMITTED TO CEQ THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27

Environmental impact statements for the following proposed federal projects were submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality during the week ending September 27.

Department of Agriculture

Forest Service draft on the North Irish Creek timber sale, Tongass National Forest, Alaska; a management plan, Willow Springs unit, Mark Twain National Forest, Mo.; and on granting a special road use permit to Burlington Northern Railroad involving Buck Creek and Yellow Mules, Gallatin National Forest, Mont.

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers draft on flood protection and recreation, Eight Mile Creek, Greene and Craighead Counties, Ark.; and on Indian River power station, unit 4, Millsboro, Del.

Final on the Red River waterway, La., Tex., Ark., and Okla., and related projects (supplement 1); a flood management plan, Charles River watershed, Mass.; and on a small boat refuge harbor, Fairport Harbor, Ohio.

Environmental Protection Agency

Region VIII final on construction of new sewage treatment facilities, Granby, Colo.

Federal Power Commission

Staff supplement to final on the Alcan pipeline project, Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Systems, Washington, D.C.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Draft on the Chinatown Mei Lun Yuen residential development, San Francisco, Calif.; Devon-Aire Estates development, Dade County, Fla.; construction of Bayview Park senior citizens center, Pensacola, Fla.; and on Project Agnes urban renewal, Corning, N.Y.

Copyright © 1976 by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

MONS 085901