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Monsanto Plans to Halt Production of PCBs

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Monsanto Co., a producer of polychlorinated biphenyl for decades and the chief U.S. supplier of the chemical, said Tuesday it would withdraw completely from domestic production of PCBs by Oct. 31, 1977.

The halt will cause shifts to substitute materials for PCBs, which have been used since about 1936 as electric insulating and fire-resistant fluids but in recent years have been found to collect in the environment with potentially hazardous effects for humans.

Monsanto announced last January it planned to withdraw from PCB production but a definite date was not set. The company said it would wait until firms in the electrical industry using PCBs could gear up to use substitutes in products such as capacitors and transformers. Monsanto said conversion timetables now drawn up by the electrical industry would permit the late 1977 withdrawal of PCBs.

A Monsanto spokesman said about 20 employes were involved in the company's production of PCBs at its William G. Krummrich plant near East St. Louis.

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