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Plan for Burning PCBs Dropped at McClellan

Sacramento

McClellan Air Force Base officials say they won't dispose of the chemical PCB by burning after all.

The weekend announcement ended nearly four years of efforts to get approval from numerous agencies for the burning.

The burning was to demonstrate the capacity of McClellan's high-temperature incinerator for destroying polychlorinated biphenyls.

PCB was used for decades as a coolant in electrical equipment such as transformers. But in 1979, it was shown to be a health hazard, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency banned its manufacture.

The EPA recently certified two commercial sites for similar PCB burning, at Deer Park, Texas, and El Dorado, Ark. McClellan's commanding officer, Major General Dewey Lowe, said in a statement that the certification was a factor in the decision to abandon the plans for burning on the base.

Associated Press