

To: J. Ortiz
F.A. Provorny
J.C. Weber
D. Wood

From: Glynn Young

CHARLESTON, W. VA.
GAZETTE
D. 96,375

DEC 29 1978

Consumers May Pay For PCB Replacement

United Press International

Consumers probably will end up paying the \$3 million it's going to cost the coal industry to halt use of a cancer-causing lubricant widely used in mining machinery, according to industry spokesmen.

The ban on polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) goes into effect in February.

The Environmental Protection Agency says the coal and power industries combined will probably have to spend \$40 million to convert to new materials. PCB, which has been found to cause cancer and nerve damage in animals, is scheduled to be totally out of use in mining machinery by 1981.

FINES OF UP to \$25,000 a day will be leveled at violators, according to EPA spokeswoman Robin Wood, with the Mining Safety and Health Administration expected to assist in enforcement.

"We use PCB extensively in both surface and deep mining," said Herb Hamm of Consolidated Coal Co. "We're looking at all ways we can meet this problem."

"I say the coal industry will have to acquiesce pretty hard to fit the new regulations," said Charles Jones, part owner of Amherst Coal Co.

"The problem is going to be getting the public to pay for them," he added. "How much more expense from complying with new laws can we absorb?"

THE EPA estimates more than 1.25 billion pounds of the toxic chemical have been used by industry since Monsanto Co. first produced it in the early 1920s. Of that total, at least 750 million pounds are still in use, six million pounds are still in use, 6 million pounds have been incinerated and the rest has been dispersed in the environment.

"It's shown up everywhere from ice

in the Arctic to mother's milk in a downy state," Mr. Wood said. "Industries used to dump old PCB in the waterways and it was dispersed in the air. It also made its way into the food chain."

"There's just no way to get rid of it."

MONS 008956