JAN 2 9 1976

# Monsanto to phase out manufacture of PCBs

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (Special) — Production of an electrical insulating fluid which has severe human health effects and threatens some of the northeast's greatest fisheries will be phased out within the next 18 months, the sole American manufacturer of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) said Monday.

The Monsanto Co. action, however, will not affect the 400 million pounds of PCBs still in use nor the 300 million pounds which have been released to the atmosphere. Company officials agree the toxic industrial chemical can persist in the environment for years.

Monsanto spokesperson Gary Barton said Tuesday production of PCBs would end as soon as a suitable substitute for the chemical has been found.

"It appears we are closer to a solution for capacitors than we are for transformers," Barton said. Monsanto is currently testing the environmental impact of a PCB substitute — known as MCS-1338 — and Dow Chemical Corp. has announced a PCB replacement for high voltage transformers, he said.

If area firms accept these substitutes, New England firms manufacturing capacitors could stop PCB use in mid-1977. The only Connecticut PCB user produces capacitors in a Bridgeport plant.

Now used primarily in electrical products, PCBs have been used in a wide range of substances. The persistent industrial waste has been found in native Connecticut River fish, sediment from streams across the state and bottom mud from Broad Brook reservoir.

Scientists from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are testing Bridgeport Hydraulic Co. water for possible PCB contamination and state Health Department officials are talking of expanding monitoring efforts to include shellfish from the Housatonic River.

General Electric currently discharges a quarter pound of PCB into the Housatonic each day under New England's only EPA permit to dump the toxic chemical into a waterway in the region. The company produces transformers but has refused to [redacted] out of state repo[redacted] the Pittsfield [redacted] cility.

Use of PCBs in trasformers is usually determined by the unit's location, Barton said. Electrical equiment placed inside buildings where fire would be a hazard use PCB filled transformers while remote or outside facilities do not, he said.

Discontinuing PCB manufacture would prompt relocation of some 20 employes in Monsanto's 1,200-person workforce at a Sauget, Ill., plant, he said. The PCB producing area will be renovated for other uses he said.

EPA Administrator Russell Train said recently PCB levels found in fish from the Great Lakes, Hudson River and St. Lawrence Seaway were higher than federal limits for safe human consumption.

Striped bass from Long Island Sound came within parts-per-million of the PCB cutoff mark this summer. Levels ranging up to twice the federal limit have been found in Connecticut River fish during the past six years.

Reproductive failures, gastric disorders and skin lesions are some of the health effects noted in mammals from PCBs.

MONS 031956



Record Photo by Allen E. Myers

Church will sponsor a Southeast Asia Mission Night at the church on Sunday evening with supper and a brief program beginning at 6.

The menu, the decorations, and the program are designed to give a "taste," a "smell", and a "feeling" of what it is like to live in that part of the world today. The supper will feature a Vietanmese chicken noodle soup, "mussamun" curry from Thailand, a Malaysian salad and a coconut custard dessert from Indonesia.

Members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship will serve as

group of them will monstrate a game whi popular in Burma.

Dr. William A. Smalle Wallingford will speal "Smells of Asia: E Translation of Mo Southeast Asia". Dr. Sm

## FAMILY SERVICE

The annual meeting of the corporators and directors of the Family Service Association of Central Connecticut,

# The Family

## Club sets bicentennial

The Meriden Woman's Club Bicentennial Luncheon will be held on Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. at the First Congregational Church. Mrs John Rasted and Mrs. Donald Anderson are making preparations for an authentic early American meal, and all members who have bicentennial gowns

are asked t Korn, chairi tions be ma the luncheo tennila Corr discretion.

MONS 031957