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Housatonic River Pollution Subject Of March 13 Conference

Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) pollution in the Housatonic River will be the topic of a conference held March 13 at the New Milford High School. The event, which is being sponsored by the Housatonic Valley Association, will bring national experts on PCB pollution together with representatives of government, members of sporting groups and the general public. The purpose of the meeting will be to explain the extent of the PCB problem in the river, and its potential health effects. Strategies for eliminating the chemical as a pollutant will also be discussed.

Polychlorinated bipheny, a substance like DDT has been linked to sterility in wildlife and skin disorders in humans. New York State has banned commercial fishing in the Hudson River due to PCB pollution there.

Recent samples of fish taken from the Housatonic River near Pittsfield have shown levels seven times those recommended as safe for human consumption.

Sedement tests taken by EPA and by the Housatonic Valley Association have shown high levels of PCB in the Housatonic and Still Rivers.

At the meeting on March 13, Dr A. Karim Ahmed of the Natural Resources Defense Council will discuss the effect of PCB on the health of humans and wildlife. Dr Ahmed will also discuss techniques that are available for the control and elimination of PCB discharges. E. V. Fitzpatrick, director of the Environmental Protection Agency's surveilance and analysis division, will speak about the role of the federal government in PCB detection and control. A representative of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection will also be there to explain the state's position on the PCB problem in the Housatonic.

The event is open to the general public. A donation of 50 cents will be requested to help defray expenses. Coffee and donuts will be available. All those who are concerned about the problem should attend.

The meeting will begin promptly at 10 am and end around 1 pm.

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