SEP 23 1976

GE withholds suit comment

General Electric officials in Rome say they will withhold any comment on the $500-million suit filed against them Monday in Atlanta U.S. District Court by several commercial fishermen, bait and tackle shop owneers and riverside residents in Rome until their lawyers "have an opportunity to study it."

Bill Buchannen, manager of employe and community relations at the Rome GE plant, said his company can give no comment on the legal action until it has been served with the actual suit.

The class action suit was filed by businessmen, property owners and fishermen against GE and Monsanto Co. which sold the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to GE, according to the suit.

PCBs, used in the manufacture of electronic components, can cause skin eruptions, excessive eye discharges and swelling of eyelids.

According to the suit, GE poisoned fish in the Coosa River by "willfully, wantonly, negligently or recklessly" allowing the PCBS to enter a tributary of the Coosa.

Two weeks ago state officials ordered a halt to commercial fishing in the river because the fish contained levels of PCBs above the limit recommended for human consumption by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

After the suit was filed, a spokesmen for GE outside of the Rome office said that his company was a "natural target for anyone" who wants to file suit since GE still uses PCBs.

SEP 24 1976

Monsanto named in $1 billion suit

ANDERSON, S.C. (AP) — The Monsanto Company of St. Louis, Mo., has been named as a codefendant in a $1 billion class action suit on behalf of Lake Hartwell property owners in Georgia and South Carolina.

In an amended complaint filed Wednesday in federal court in Greenville, S.C., Monsanto was accused of negligence and "strict liability" in its production of PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, according to Ronnie Cole, a member of the Anderson, S.C., law firm which filed the complaint.

The suit, filed about two weeks ago, originally named the Sangamo Electric Company of Pickens, S.C. Sangamo has been identified as a source of PCBs, which have been found in high levels in Lake Hartwell.

SPARTANBURG, S. C.
HERALD
D. 40,500

SEP 24 1976

Hartwell Complaint:

Suit Names Another Defendant

ANDERSON, (AP)—The Monsanto Company of St. Louis, Mo., has been named as a codefendant in a $1 billion class action suit on behalf of Lake Hartwell property owners in Georgia and South Carolina.

In an amended complaint filed Wednesday in federal court in Greenville, S.C., Monsanto was accused of negligence and "strict liability" in its production of PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, according to Ronnie Cole, a member of the Anderson, S.C., law firm which filed the complaint.

The suit, filed about two weeks ago, originally named the Sangamo Electric Company of Pickens, S.C. Sangamo has been identified as a source of PCBs, which have been found in high levels in Lake Hartwell.

Cole said Monsanto is the sole producer of PCBs, a group of organic chemicals used by Sangamo in its manufacture of electrical capacitators and suspected of causing cancer. He said the suit charges that by virtue of producing PCBs, Monsanto is liable for damages sustained by property owners as a result of the Lake Hartwell pollution.

The suit says that the PCB-contamination has caused a lowering of property values and a loss in profit to businesses along the lake.

The action, Cole said, has been filed on behalf of four classes: property owners whose lands touch Lake Hartwell; boating and marine dealers on the lake; residents within a three mile of the lake's shoreline; and all commercial businesses that sell lake-related products within three miles of the shoreline.

MONS 036787