# Incinerator Tested On Toxic Chemical

By John M. Wyth II
Star Energy/Environment Writer

The nation's first commercial incinerator designed to handle the toxic chemical PCB was tested last month in El Dorado, Ark., and could be in commercial operation next spring.

Charles Robertson, executive vice president of Energy Systems Co., maker of the giant incinerator, said preliminary indications are that the tests were successful. Robertson described the tests Wednesday during a conference on hazardous wastes at the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel.

The tests are important because PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, does not break down under ordinary incineration. It is considered an extreme environmental hazard because of its persistence. It builds up in the fatty tissues of warm-blooded animals and can lead to skin, internal and central nervous system ailments.

PCB has been widely discussed in this area in recent months because of an incident in Newton, Kan., where a herd of cattle was contaminated, and another in Johnson County, where the dangerous chemical was sprayed on roads at the county landfill.

The Johnson County case led to an investigation of the Rockhum Petroleum Co. and a proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency to fine that company $131,000 for improper handling of PCB-contaminated material.

PCB was widely used as a coolant in electrical equipment until scientists realized its dangers a few years ago. Now its manufacture is banned, but environmental officials have been faced with the problem of handling millions of pounds of a substance that couldn't be neutralized effectively.

The incinerator in Arkansas, and other tests in Texas and the open sea, could change that dramatically.

After the Arkansas test results are compiled, the EPA will decide whether the Energy Systems Co. unit should receive authorization to handle PCB. If the ruling is favorable, the unit will face a public hearing.

Robertson said there has been opposition to operation of the unit at the company's waste handling facility on the outskirts of El Dorado. The company operates in an industrial site, on the grounds of an abandoned oil refinery.

Buy, sell, trade, morning, evening and Sundays with Times/Star Classified Ads. To place your ads dial 234-4888.—Adv.



SAFE, FAST PAI
RELIEF WITHOU
ASPIRIN
VITAMIN E EN
THE O
SOLUT
FOR HAIR
AND SKIN
8 OZ.
ASS
CA
W
3

MONS 007040

# ared

## ist

odt spokesman said that has no organic wastes uid waste is of the low- can be held until it re ctive.

Hubbard, senior vice rations at Midwest Re-, said the closing of iously affect the sup- ental medical chemi- rs nationwide.

ls generate low-level ials such as Carbon hich until new have y six months at the te, Hubbard said.

another four to five will have to make bard said, but if no nd for disposal, it Nuclear Regulato- crease the amount e is authorized to

more a nuisance he said. "But it I have to restrict y."





SKAGGS DRUG CENTERS

19 convenient locations in the greater KC area

Joyce Boots & Shoes
Fashion & Comfort
Caldwells
Plaza • Prairie Village
• West Parkway • Crown Center Shops


MONS 007041