NOV 22 1982

Walnut Creek, CA
(Contra Costa Co.)
Contra Costa Times
(Clr. 6xW. 98,896)

OCT 13 1982
Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## the nation

### PCB-eating salt approved by EPA

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A safe and simple chemical process to destroy PCBs, a cancer-causing chemical, was approved Tuesday by the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Called NaPEG, the system uses modified sodium salts which are not sensitive to air or water to break down polychlorinated byphenyls, commonly known as PCBs. The residue is non-toxic.

Steve Osborn, manager of process chemistry at the Franklin Research Center, which invented the system, said "we believe our process is a generation ahead of other methods because ours is the most simple."

Fremont, CA
(Alameda Co.)
Argus
(Clr. D. 19,988)
(Clr. S. 20,256)

SEP 30 1982
Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Hundreds of PCB-tainted silos found in Michigan countryside

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Tests have revealed that the Michigan countryside is dotted with hundreds of grain silos containing toxic PCBs, officials in the state Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

Most of the contaminated silos were either built, repaired or contain material recycled between 1941 and 1966 by a Charlotte-based firm that used a PCB-laced sealant to coat their linings against corrosion.

The latest results of an ongoing survey begun in May 1981 show PCBs in 253 of 8,569 suspect silos checked, said Dr. Burton Cardwell, coordinator of the department's Toxic Substances and Emergency Services Office.

"We have nothing to hide," Cardwell said. "We figure the best thing to do is to be up front about it."

Most of the silos were built by the Michigan Silo Co., which went out of business in 1966, Cardwell said.

The firm also built silos in Ohio and Indiana, and one expert has estimated the company's buildings may be scattered throughout 15 states, he added.

Some 105 of the PCB-tainted silos recently found in Michigan are no longer in use, Cardwell said.

Toxic PCBs from the sealant in some instances leached into silage which was fed to dairy cattle and ultimately turned up in milk, Cardwell explained.

PCBs, short for polychlorinated biphenyls, are suspected cancer-causing agents which have been linked by scientists to liver damage, reproductive failures and birth defects in both humans and animals.

Cardwell said the problem of the PCB-tainted silos first came to the state's attention in 1974.

"We were just getting started with regard to the knowledge of the toxicity of PCBs," he said.

The department then undertook its first study of Michigan farms to find the extent of the problem.

Of about 10,000 dairy farms then in existence, 80 were producing tainted milk, but just a few exceeded allowed levels of the chemical compound, said Mason Smith, of the department's dairy division.

No figures were available on how many Michigan silos were sealed with the toxic sealant, but many of them were taken down or sandblasted and recoated with other sealants, Cardwell said.

Milk on eight Michigan dairy farms still is monitored because it shows traces of PCBs, but the levels are well within amounts allowed by the federal government, Cardwell said.

Milk from the other farms that still have tainted silos shows no detectable amounts of the chemical, he said.

Cardwell said the survey of Michigan dairy and milk farms is nearing completion, but progress may slow down some when the state's contract from the federal Environmental Protection Agency expires on Friday.

However, he said few more tainted silos are expected to be discovered and the entire survey should be complete within three months through state-financed efforts.

Once the study is completed, agriculture officials hope to devise a disposal plan in cooperation with the departments of Public Health and Natural Resources, he said.

PCB-ARCH-EXT0376138