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FOR MONSANTO COMPANY

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MENTION OF MONSANTO IN POLLUTION CHARGE

NEWSCASTER: The Food and Drug Administration says it's discovered a kind of poison in some food packages made of recycled paper. Here's Group W Correspondent Jim Slade in Washington.

JIM SLADE: The persistent poison PCB's has been found in cereal boxes made from recycled paper. The Food and Drug Administration says it found the poison in boxes used as containers for an unidentified shredded wheat. While PCB's was found in high quantities in the box material, very small amounts had actually rubbed off on the food itself. A spokesman for the agency, Donald Bareth(?), said the poison apparently got into the recycling process from carbonless carbon paper. It was used in the manufacture of the paper, but the Monsanto Corporation, which produces the chemical, said PCB's have been discontinued in anything except for what it described as closed systems -- used one time only and never in or near human consumption. One such closed system, for instance, is the manufacture of electrical insulators.

The FDA did not announce seizure of any cereals which might have been exposed to the contaminated boxes. The levels in the food was extremely low, below the usual limits imposed on edible products. But in the past, chickens, turkeys and eggs have been seized or destroyed because of the poison's presence.

This is Jim Slade, Group W News, in Washington.

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