

DAY

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Monsanto Will Halt PCBs

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. will halt production of PCB insulating fluids next year because of the public's fear of adverse effects from the chemical.

Monsanto will withdraw completely from the market no later than Oct. 31, 1977, said Earle H. Harrison Jr., general manager of the firm's specialty chemicals division.

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Only PCB Manufacturer Says It Is Withdrawing

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto said they would be unable to convert to other materials any earlier. The only U.S. manufacturer of the controversial PCB insulating fluids, announced Monday that it will quit producing the fluids by late next year.

Earle H. Harrison Jr., general manager of Monsanto's specialty chemicals division, said the firm will complete distribution of all inventories and withdraw completely from the market no later than Oct. 31, 1977.

The target date would be even sooner, Harrison said, but electrical transformer and capacitor manufacturers have

said they would be unable to convert to other materials any earlier.

PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) is a stable, fire-resistant chemical that is used widely in transformers and capacitors.

"Unfortunately," Harrison said, "the very properties that have made PCBs ideal and even mandatory for these essential uses, were also found in the early 1970s to be the properties causing them to persist and accumulate in the environment."

PCB has been blamed as a major source of pollution in New York's Hudson River.

The Washington Post
WASHINGTON, D. C.
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Big PCB Producer Will Stop Next Year

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 5 (UPI)—Monsanto Co., the nation's leading supplier of polychlorinated biphenyl, used as an electric insulator, said today it would stop production of the chemical by Oct. 31, 1977, because of possible hazardous effects on humans.

Monsanto said the phasing out of production over the next year would give time for manufacturers to find alternate materials. Substitutes developed by the electrical industry are being tested, although they may not prove as effective in resisting fire as PCB.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which had called polychlorinated biphenyl a "significant hazard to human health and the environment," welcomed Monsanto's decision, although EPA Administrator Russell E. Train said:

"Environmental contamination will continue to be a problem due to the millions of PCBs already in landfills, soils, river and lake sediments, in our air and water and in wildlife and human tissue. This contamination will be there for years—moving into life systems, including humans."

THE REPORTER DISPATCH

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.
(NEW YORK CITY MARKET AREA)
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Kepone fines

Allied Chemical Corp. has been fined \$13.2 million for dumping the pesticide Kepone and other highly toxic chemicals into Virginia's James River. It was believed to be the largest fine ever levied for pollution of the nation's waterways. In another environmental action, Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. of St. Louis announced it plans to halt production of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Monsanto is the only maker of PCB fluids in the U.S. It was PCBs which polluted the Hudson River from an upstate General Electric plant.

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