DRB.

-MOBIL CORP PLANT STUDY INDICATES PO SIBLE LINK OF PCB'S TO CANCER IN HUMANS

WASHN -DJ- MOBIL CORP HAS REPORTED WHAT MAY BE THE FIRST A SOCIATION OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS OR PCBS WITH CANCER IN HUMANS.

THE EXPOSURE OCCURRED AT MOBIL'S PAULSBORO NJ PETROCHEMICAL PLANT WHERE A PCB PRODUCT MADE BY MONSANTO CO WAS BEING USED IN THE PLANT'S OPERATIONS. PCBS ARE WIDELY USED AS HEAT-TRANSFER AGENTS IN ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

DETAILS OF THE CANCER CASES WERE REPORTED IN A LETTER FROM RESEARCHERS TO THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH IMMEDIATELY ASKED SCIENTISITS IN THE U S AND ELSEWHERE FOR ANY FURTHER REPORTS OF THE CHEMICAL'S ASSOCIATION WITH CANCER IN HUMANS.

PCBS HAVE BEEN LINKED WITH A VARIETY OF LESS SEVERE HUMAN AILMENTS. WORKERS EXPOSED TO HIGH CONCENTRATIONS HAVE DEVELOPED SKIN ERUPTIONS EYE DISCHARGES SWELLING OF THE EYELIDS AND DIGESTIVE DISTURBANCES. FED TO TEST ANIMALS THE CHEMICAL HAS PRODUCED LIVER CANCER IN RATS AND MICE.

THE MOBIL STUDY 'IS VERY PRELIMINARY' SAID ROSCOE MOORE JR AN EPIDEMIOLOGIST AT THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE. 'IT PROVIDES A BIT OF INFORMATION BUT OTHER STUDIES SHOULD BE PURSUED' HE SAID.

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