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# Ban on PCB Insulating Fluid Seen by Company

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COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) – The general manager of a company that produces power capacitors for electric utilities said Thursday the firm will stop using PCB insulating fluid Nov. 1 and that it will be only a matter of time before PCB production is halted altogether.

E.H. Keith of the Greenwood plant of Pittsburgh-based McGraw Edison Co. said his firm is converting from PCBs – polychlorinated biphenyls – to a more environmentally safe fluid named Edisol.

Company officials made the announcement simultaneously at news conferences in Columbia and Pittsburgh.

Keith said Congress has passed legislation that would ban production of the highly toxic PCBs by 1978. He said the legislation is awaiting President Ford's signature.

He said Edisol, developed by the Dow Chemical Co., costs about 25 per cent more than PCBs, but has a longer life and is less hazardous to the environment. Some is in use now, he said.

Health officials in South Carolina and Georgia have warned that eating fish taken from Lake Hartwell, located on the South Carolina-Georgia line, may be hazardous because of high levels of PCBs.

Keith said PCBs are suspected cancer causing chemicals. Other dangers to individuals are birth defects and skin rashes, he said.

A \$1 billion suit has been filed against the Monsanto Co. of St. Louis and the Sangamo Electric Co. of Pickens, S.C. by Lake Hartwell property owners in Georgia and South Carolina.

Sangamo, which uses PCBs manufactured by Monsanto, has been identified as a source of PCBs found in the lake.

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