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Indiana Bans Use of PCBs

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana has become the first state in the nation to ban the general use of the toxic chemical polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Use of the jelly-like chemical, now utilized in the manufacture of vinyl products, will be restricted to closed electrical circuits, and then only with approval of the Environmental Management Board.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the substance causes severe skin problems and hair loss. It also has been linked to cancer and birth defects.

Penalties for violating the measure, which was signed into law Tuesday by Gov. Otis R. Bowen, allow for a jail sentence of up to 30 days and a $10,000 fine. The measure takes effect May 1.

Bowen also

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