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State Witnesses Testify In Pollution Hearings

ALBANY — The state Department of Environmental Conservation (EnCon) presented testimony from six more witnesses Monday in the adjudicatory hearings into the allegedly illegal dumping of PCBs into the Hudson River by the Fort Edward and Hudson Falls General Electric plants.

Unlike the sessions held last Thursday and Friday, Monday's session moved along quite rapidly and the extensive cross-examination of last week by GE's attorneys was greatly restrained.

Dr. Del Wayne Nimmo, a research physiologist with the federal Environmental Protection Agency's laboratories in Gulf Breeze, Fla., testified about the various experiments the EPA conducted recently on the effects of PCBs on marine life.

David Hansen, also with the EPA laboratories in Gulf Breeze, supported the testimony of Dr. Nimmo and explained some of the dangerous effects PCBs have on marina life revealed in their experiemnts.

Testimony was also taken from Dr. Royal Nadeau, chief of the Biology Section at the EPA Region 2 headquarters in Edison, N.J.; Dr. Richard Spear, chief of the Surveillance and Monitoring Section of the EPA regional headquarters in Edison; Dr. Barnard Dudenbostel, director of the organic chemistry laboratories for EPA in Edison; and Earl Harris, director of the EnCon pollution laboratories in Rome, N.Y.

Nadeau and Spear presented the results of a survey conducted by the EPA after the filing of an application by GE for a discharge permit under the federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972.

The survey, which was instituted by the EPA in 1974, showed high levels of PCBs in the Hudson considered to be detrimental to the plant and animal life of the river.

The hearings resumed last Thursday, after two adjournments from the original commencement date of Oct. 6, with the first testimony from EnCon's witnesses.

The department is attempting to prove that GE has deliverately dumped excessive amounts of the toxic chemical polychlorinated biphenyl into the Hudson River for a number of years and that the chemical is endangering the ecology of the river. Some of the statistics gathered by EnCon show that the two GE plants have dumped amounts of PCBs in excess of 116 lbs. on certain days and that the company may be disposing of PCB contaminated materials at landfill sites in the Glens Falls area.

The department contends that the PCBs are seeping into the Hudson from the landfills and creating an additional threat to the ecology of the river. EnCon has also presented information which indicates high levels of PCBs in the Hudson Falls Village Sewer System.

EnCon is expected to conclude its case when the hearings resume today, with testimony from its remaining seven witnesses. Thus far, 12 witnesses have testified on behalf of the department.

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