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PCB in Water

The possible contamination of state waters by industrial chemicals is causing legislators to take notice.

At the Capital last week, the Environment Committee voted to raise for public hearing a bill which would ban the use of PCB's in Connecticut manufacturing by 1980.

"This is a new subject to me," said Rep. Thom Serrani, D-Stamford, who proposed the bill. "I want to get information on it out in the open."

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) are heat-resistant compounds which accumulated evidence links with cancer, stillbirths, deformities, and neurological disorders.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is testing sediment in Connecticut rivers and in the Long Island Sound where PCB's settle to find out whether levels exceed the federal standard. Some recent reports have shown increased concentrations in fish which feed on organisms in the sediment.

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