84-10 MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED
MO. 1,150,000

FEB 1976

CLIPPED BY BACONS

1800

CERTAIN industrial pollutants that seemed to be coming under control a few years ago are now emerging as a more serious threat to ecology than DDT. The pollutants, commonly known as PCBs, have caused a skin disease and liver problems in humans and evidence is accumulating that they harm wildlife as well. Researchers also have found that PCBs linger longer in the environment because they are far more resistant than even DDT to natural degradation and that they are toxic at far lower levels than previously thought. But their advantages—chemical stability, fire resistance and electrical insulating properties—make PCBs important for use in electrical transformers and capacitors, lubricants, waterproofing chemicals and carbonless duplicating paper.

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