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EPA Announces Ban On Sales Of Industrial Chemical PCB

By Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO — A national ban on sales of the industrial chemical PCB beginning July 1, 1979, was announced Tuesday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

It will be the first general ban in the United States of an industrial chemical considered harmful to the environment and to public health, according to Karl ~~Smith~~, the EPA's regional ~~solid~~ ~~substances~~ coordinator. Only a few

pesticides such as DDT are on the EPA's outlawed list.

A schedule for phasing out the production and use of PCB in the United States was outlined at an EPA hearing in Chicago.

"PCB will be banned," said Bremer flatly. "It is considered a health hazard. It tends to accumulate in human tissue, and it's suspected of causing cancer."

Industrial spokesmen were called to the hearing to voice any opposition to

the ban, or to explain how the impact of the ban can be softened.

E.M. Warner of the Joy Manufacturing Co. of Franklin, Pa., a major manufacturer of mining equipment, said the ban could hinder coal mining because of the extensive use of PCB-cooled engines in mining machines. He asked for a three-year delay.

Marty Onishi, a spokesman for the Edison Electric Institute, said the electric utility industry has long expected the crackdown on PCB and has already begun phasing out the use of PCB.

"We recognize that it is persistent in nature and care has to be taken in its disposal," said Onishi adding that the greatest im-

pact will fall on electrical hardware manufacturers who use PCB as a coolant.

PCB is a chemical relative of DDT. Both are long-lasting chemical poisons found accumulating in the environment and in human tissue. PCB has been widely used since the 1930s as coolant, hydraulic fluid, in paints, inks, plastics, lubricants, and preservatives. **Monsanto Corp.** is the sole PCB manufacturer in the U.S.

The health hazards of PCB were discovered in the early 1970s and it is now implicated in cancer, birth defects, and nervous disorders. Japan and France have banned PCB.

Valdas Adamkus, the EPA's deputy regional

director, said he did not expect much opposition to the PCB ban because "we have sufficient information to

prove the harmful effects on using PCB. I think industry is not resisting because it recognizes the

damaging effects."

A PCB conference held in Chicago in 1975 recommended phasing out the use

of PCB because there is no known method of treating or removing it once it gets into the environment.