DRAFT OF TRAIN STATEMENT ON PCB

I am announcing today an EPA action plan to reduce as rapidly and effectively as we can the serious threat of PCBs to human health and the environment.

(History of PCB)

Because of this hazard and our findings that the environmental burden is already great and is growing, I have concluded that we must, as a society, accept and work toward a goal of totally eliminating the production, importation, and use of PCB as rapidly and as soon as possible. Furthermore, we must make every effort to assure that those PCBs now in use do not enter the environment. At the same time, the public should be under no illusions as to the difficulty of dealing with this problem. We have absolutely no authority under the existing law to stop or restrict uses of PCBs. Until the passage of a toxic substances control act by the Congress, we must rely heavily on voluntary acts by industry. In any event, it will not be possible to eliminate the use of PCB overnight. With all that we can do, it may take many years before we are able to see significant declines in levels of PCBs in the environment. Nevertheless, we must begin at once. I am therefore taking the following steps:

1. I am directing regulatory offices, in effective cooperation with the states, to establish regulations to wholly eliminate PCBs from the product wastes, from all manufacturers of PCBs, and of capacitor and transformers that utilize PCB.

2. I have called on the presidents of major electrical utility companies and on other users of large capacitors and transformers to assume responsibility for controlling the use and disposal of their PCBs. To this end, I have written representatives of the companies and their associates to meet with me in January to discuss how this might be accomplished as rapidly and as soon as possible.

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3. I am also calling on the leadership of manufacturer of PCBs and the major manufacturers of transformers and capacitors to develop and use alternates for PCB as rapidly and as soon as possible.

I have scheduled a meeting in January with representatives of these manufacturers to discuss and lay out specific plans to accomplish this end.

4. I have proposed regulations to control the environmental damage that results from spills of hazardous substances including PCBs. EPA will move as rapidly as possible to finalize these regulations after a suitable public comment.

5. In addition to these steps, I am initiating a number of other programs to find ways of eliminating the environmental discharges from other sources of PCBs including paper re-cycling operations, investment casting companies, and the disposal of electrical consumer products which contain PCB.

Finally, I am writting state governments to ask them to examine and apply their authority to deal with the PCB problem. With regard to all these actions, I would again like to caution that they will not lead to an easy and quick reduction of PCBs in our environment and particularly in the commercial and sports fish taken from those waters most contaminated. Hopefully, industry control of discharges will arrest the rapid growth of the problem. However, only the reduced use of PCBs will yield a significant and permanent solution.

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