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FOR USE: At Will

See 1176 on last pg for dot.

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 24 -- Since the late 1930's, the electrical industry has supplied transformers using askarels which contain PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) for use in installations where a high degree of fire resistance is required, such as schools, hospitals and high-rise buildings. In addition, major applications of PCB's were carbonless paper, fire resistant hydraulic fluids, heat transfer fluids and plasticizers. Moreover, capacitors containing PCB's are used in fluorescent lighting ballasts, air conditioning compressors, and television receivers.

In late 1970 studies began to indicate that PCB's had a tendency to persist and accumulate in the environment. Since that time, Westinghouse has attached an additional identifying label to each PCB-filled transformer shipped.

Westinghouse said recent tests it has conducted indicate that some oil-filled transformers may contain varying concentrations of PCB's.

The company said the presence of PCB's in mineral oil does not affect the performance of the transformers.

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Currently there are no nationally established standards for allowable levels of PCB's in oil for closed electrical systems. A number of states have recently enacted legislation providing for special reporting, labeling and/or disposition of PCB's. Because legislation varies in different states, it is suggested that customers institute any special procedures which may be required for conformance.''

In addition, when performing repair, routine maintenance or disposal, oil-filled transformers should be checked for the presence of PCB.

On November 8, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) commissioned a special task force to study the possibility that PCB's may be present in detectable quantities in oil-filled electrical apparatus and oil-storage systems for electrical insulating oil.

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