Wisconsin State Journal
MADISON, WISC.
D. 79,762 SUN. 120,282

JUN 6 1975

Mississippi River PCB Levels Down

HUDSON (AP) — The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission was told Thursday that recent tests show the levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in the Mississippi River is down considerably.

Willis Mattison, of the Rochester office of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA), said tests on May 16 showed low levels of the chemical between the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and the foot of Lake Pepin.

The readings were at a record high in mid-March and prompted the federal government to ban the interstate shipment of commercial fish taken from Lake Pepin. The Minnesota Health Dept. later recommended that persons eat no more than one meal per week of game fish taken from the artificial lake.

Mattison cautioned that the lower levels of pollution would not reduce the danger from eatig fish. He said the chemical is stored in the fish for their lifetime and the exposure at high levels would present a long-term problem.

He said the fluctuating levels of PCB indicated the pollution was coming from one major source rather than a number of small polluters.

The 10-member commission, headed by Robert Nybo Jr., Red Wing, Minn., passed a resolution urging the governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin and Dept. of Natural Resources in the two states to continue their efforts to find the source of the PCB.

MONS 031221