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Will stop making chemical

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Monsanto Co. announced Monday it plans to phase out the manufacture of a toxic group of chemicals known as PCBs, which environmentalists contend are threatening public health and the nation's rivers and lakes.

Monsanto is the sole maker of PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, which is used primarily as a nonconductor of direct electrical current. The chemical has been a necessary ingredient in most power-generating equipment.

PCBs have been used in manufacturing processes since 1930, but their presence as toxic substances in the environment was not detected until 1966 because they were confused with DDT, with which they have a similar chemical structure.

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