2/20/79 FYI: J. Ortiz
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DELAWARE, OHIO
GAZETTE
D. 8,707

DEC 29 1978

Coal industry says public to pay for safety

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (UPI) — The coal industry says the $3 million cost of abandoning a cancer-causing lubricant commonly used on mine machinery probably will be paid for by consumers.

Starting in February, the substance known as polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) officially is banned.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the coal and power industries together must shell out $40 million to convert to new materials. PCB, considered by the federal agency as a cause of cancer and nerve damage in animals, must be phased out totally in mining machinery by 1981.

An EPA official, Robin Wood, said daily fines of $25,000 will be imposed on violators.

"It's shown up everywhere from ice in the Arctic to mother's milk in a dozen states," she said.

"Industries used to dump old PCB in the waterways and it was dispersed in the air. It also made its way into the food chain. There's just no way to get rid of it."

Enforcement will be aided by the Mining Safety and Health Administration, another federal agency.

"We use PCB extensively in both surface and deep mining," noted Hark Hanson of Consolidated Coal Co. "We're looking at all ways we can meet this problem."

"I say the coal industry will have to acquiesce pretty hard to fit the new regulations," offered Charles Jones, part owner of Amherst Coal Co.

"The problem is going to be getting the public to pay for them. How much more expense from complying with new laws can we absorb?"

The EPA believes that more than 1.35 billion pounds of the chemical have been used by industry since Monsanto Co. first produced it in the early 1930s.

From that amount, at least 700 million pounds are still in use, six million pounds have been incinerated and the rest has been dispersed in the environment.

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COSHOCTON, OHIO
TRIBUNE
D. 8,708 S. 9,352

DEC 29 1978

Consumers To Take On Costs

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