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PCB Imperils State Waters: Schreiber

Lt. Gov. Martin J. Schreiber warned Thursday that a chemical known as PCB is threatening Wisconsin's waters and asked a conference of water quality experts to join him in seeking tighter controls on it.

"PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) **post a threat equally as serious as DDT,**" Schreiber told the 48th annual meeting of the Central States Water Pollution Control Association.

He noted the increasing levels of PCB's in Lake Michigan, Lake Pepin, the Upper Mississippi River and the Fox River.

"Fish from these waters consistently exceed the Food and Drug Administration's human safety guideline of five parts per million," he said.

He said that if the safety guideline is lowered—something that is now being considered—there would be "negative implications" for the sport and commercial fisheries in midwestern states.

PCB's are used as cooling agents for electrical transformers and until recently had not been replaceable with any other substance.

Schreiber said that recently non-PCB containing transformers had been made useable and he called for the federal government to re-examine its standards for PCB useage.

While the only domestic producer of the chemical, Monsanto Chemical Co., has voluntarily limited its uses, Schreiber said foreign producers had no such limits and he urged the Environmental Protection Agency to **"begin to monitor imports of PCB's and place restrictions on their use."**

The association is holding its three-day annual conference at the Concourse Hotel through Friday. In the keynote speech, Joe G. Moore, Jr., program director for the National Commission on Water Quality, described the work of that body.

The commission is charged with reviewing the Federal Water Pollution Control Act's goals for 1983 and recommending adjustments in the goals to Congress at the end of this year.

Moore said a draft report would be ready by fall, and after public hearings, the commission's final recommendations would be made in February or March of 1976.

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