

The Arizona Daily Star
TUCSON, ARIZ.
D. 61,635 SUN. 110,560

AUG 7 1976

Ban On PCBs

St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial

The Environmental Protection Agency has begun the slow process of prohibiting practically any discharge into the nation's waterways of extremely hazardous pollutants called PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). PCBs are known to cause severe human ailments such as skin disease and liver problems, and laboratory tests with monkeys have shown a high incidence of reproductive failure.

A public hearing on the EPA's proposed regulations has been scheduled for Aug. 28; final regulations will be issued within six months but would not become effective until a year after the final issuance. Meanwhile the long-lasting pollutant, which has been detected in every major U.S. watershed, will continue as a threat not only to human health but to fisheries and bird life. Although the risk is minimized as long as PCBs are contained in closed electrical systems, some users are careless about discharging the chemicals.

The EPA's proposed prohibition belatedly recognizes that voluntary restraint on the part of industry is not enough.