PCB EFFECT IS PROBED

(The Gazette, Out-of-Town Edition)

OTTAWA, November 21, 1969 ... The Federal Food and Drug Directorate is trying to determine whether another DDT-like menace is in the making from industrial pollution with polychlorinated biphenols. One thing which has led to the special research program is a suspicion that polychlorinated biphenols, referred to as PCB's, may have been responsible for some of the adverse effects blamed on DDT. The Federal Government recently imposed new restrictions on DDT aimed at reducing by 90% the annual use of this pesticide.

PCB's have a long history as industrial chemicals in paints, resins, plastics, as insulators and as heat exchange fluids. Disposal of wastes containing PCB's seems to be polluting the environment.

Like DDT, PCB's are stable chemicals that do not dissolve or dissipate for a long time.

Three years ago, Swedish workers identified small amounts of PCB in fish and wildlife. They have since been detected in Canadian marine predatory birds. Other evidence confirmed PCB's in wildlife and in human fat. Presence of these chemicals in wildlife is thought to result from flushing of wastes and drainage into rivers and from residue fallout after waste burning.

Large quantities of PCB's have caused liver damage when fed to rats and guinea pigs, but little is known about the effect on other animals, and no studies have been made of their toxicity in man.

Dr. Emanuel Somers, Chief of the Directorate, Food Division, said the Directorate will initially examine their toxicity in the research laboratories here.

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