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Polluting Firms Fined $16.9 Million in Virginia

A federal judge fined two chemical companies a total of $16.9 million in Richmond yesterday for polluting Virginia waters with highly toxic chemicals.

Allied Chemical Corp. was given the maximum fine of $13.2 million on 940 separate counts, many of which dealt with the illegal discharge of the insecticide ingredient Kepone into the James River. Others related to the discharge of two other toxic chemicals that Allied used to make plastics.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr. also fined the defunct and penniless Life Science Products Co. of Hopewell $3.7 million for polluting waters with Kepone. Its two partners, William P. Moore Jr. and Virgil Hundhofte, were fined $25,000 each and given five years' probation. Both companies had pleaded no contest.

Until closed by the state in July, 1975, Life Science Products made Kepone for Allied. Allied previously had made its own Kepone for many years.

Monsanto Co., the nation's leading supplier of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), an electric insulator, said in St. Louis yesterday it would stop production of the chemical by Oct. 31, 1977 because it may be hazardous to humans. Monsanto said it was phasing out production over a year to give time for manufacturers to find substitute materials.

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National

A FORMER CIA director has denied that the agency was involved in the 1973 coup which overturned the Allende regime in Chile. William E. Colby, fired by President Ford, admitted former President Nixon ordered the CIA to stop the inauguration of Allende but that the agency failed.

MONSANTO INDUSTRIAL Chemicals Co. will halt production of PCB insulating fluids next year because of the public's fear of adverse effects from the chemical. The firm, only manufacturer of PCB, is expected to be out of the market by Oct. 31, 1977.

SPACE PIONEERS have been immortalized by the inscription of their names in the International Space Hall of Fame in Alamagordo, N.M. Among the 35 persons honored are the late Russian Yuri Gargarin, first man in space, and American Neil A. Armstrong, first man on the Moon.

FINES TOTALING more than $17 million have been levelled against two firms dumping the pesticide Kepone in Virginia's James River. Russell Train, head of the Federal Environmental Protective Agency, said the decision signals "that polluters will be held accountable."

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ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., the only U.S. manufacturer of the controversial PCB insulating fluids, announced Monday that it will quit producing the fluids by late next year.