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Divers yesterday found concentrations of the chemical, which is heavier than

E. P. A. officials have begun negotiating for the operation of a vacuum dredge which would suck up the P. C. B. and several inches of mud and silt from the river bottom. The agency said it hoped to begin dredging during the weekend or by Monday.

PCB has been linked to genetic defects in sealions and to the deaths of seals and sea lions. Although the chemical has been described as "extremely insoluble," it would eventually dissolve into the river water.

The chemical was spilled when an electrical transformer was dropped and cracked and cooling fluid leaked into the river.

TOKYO — (UPI) — The tugboat Hercules met Japan's nuclear ship Mutsu off northern Japan today and transferred food and water to the stranded vessel, the Maritime Safety Agency said.

The Mutsu, Japan's first

The 8,214-ton vessel has a leaking nuclear reactor and is banned from its home port of Mutsu by protesting fishermen.