news retrieval network

Date: 1/26/76
Client: Monsanto
Station: KMOX-TV

time	verbatim transcript
5:00 p.m.	A group of chemicals that could be as dangerous as the poison DDT is being eliminated voluntarily by the manufacturer. St. Louis' Monsanto Chemical Company says as soon as a replacement for the chemicals called PCBs is found they will stop production. PCBs are used as electrical insulators and coolants. They stay in the environment for a long time and are suspected of causing reproductive problems and cancer in humans. Monsanto says the phase out of PCBs will take at least a year.
6:00 p.m.	Production of some dangerous chemicals that have caused reproductive problems in animals is being stopped. St. Louis' Monsanto Chemical Company is the only maker of PCBs, polychlorinated bifenols, in the United States. Monsanto will stop making PCBs, used as insulators and coolants in electrical equipment as soon as a replacement is found. MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVE: "The material does persist in the environment. We do believe that it's best we try as best we can to find an alternative. It may be as soon as 18 months. In transformers---I would estimate, and I can only estimate, because it's a more greater technical challenge finding a fire resistant transformer fluid. This may take as much as 3 years." HUNTER: Now PCBs have been found in lakes and rivers all over the country. Recently PCBs have been found in the sewerage of nearby Sauget, Illinois where the plant making them is located. High enough levels have been found in some fish to cause warnings against eating them. Environmentalists say one of the most worrysome things about PCBs is that while they could be off the market within the year those already in the environment will remain much longer. MONS 032154

The above transcript has been edited for readability eliminating verbal hesitations. Unintelligible phrases are enclosed in parentheses. Proper names are spelled phonetically.