cc: J. H. Craddock
J. G. Massif

FYI

D. R. Bishop

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Missouri Orders Federal Agency To Halt PCB Flow

JEFFERSON CITY (AP) — The U.S. Department of Energy has been ordered to halt the discharge of polychlorinated biphenyls from its weapons plant in Kansas City into the Big Blue River, a spokeswoman for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources said Thursday.

The plant makes parts for nuclear missiles, but the parts themselves contain no nuclear components, said Deborah Burgess, a spokeswoman for the state. The Energy Department leases the plant to Bendix Corp.

Although the chemical, known as PCBs, has been found to cause cancer in test animals, there was no apparent danger to humans in the area around the plant, Ms. Burgess said.

By discharging the chemical, the plant was violating its state pollution permit, she added. The Energy Department's facility also was ordered to produce information on where the PCBs originated and how the agency planned to eliminate them from the environment and dispose of them.

Department officials in Kansas City could not be reached for comment.

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