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of its "unique properties" and because its emission into the environment could be controlled in a "closed system" such as a transformer.

PCB, short for polychlorinated biphenyls, is chemically similar to DDT in that it resists biological breakdown. Monsanto has been making it for 40 years under the brand name Aroclor.

There have been increasing scientific reports in recent years that PCB was being found in fish, birds, fruits and even, in miniscule quantities, in human mothers' milk. There is evidence that large doses affected the enzymes, and thus sex hormones, in certain animals.

Firm Restricts Chemical Sale

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WASHINGTON — The manufacture of an industrial chemical called PCB has decided to restrict sales of the chemical because of mounting evidence that it can induce birth defects in animals.

The Monsanto Co. of St. Louis said in a letter to Rep. William F. Ryan, D-N.Y., that it would no longer sell PCB for use as a water-resistant plasticizer or as a hydraulic fluid.

In April, the company asked the Department of Agriculture to prohibit the use of the chemical in pesticides.

Monsanto said it would continue to manufacture the chemical for use as a coolant in electrical transformers because

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