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EPA concerned on chemical peril

WASHINGTON — Poisonous industrial chemicals called PCBs are widely contaminating the environment — including some drinking water — three years after the government thought it had them "well in hand," a worried Environmental Protection Agency revealed yesterday.

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) at certain levels can cause serious toxic effects in humans. They threaten the food chain and, according to a recent unpublished report cited by the EPA, malignant liver tumors developed in rats exposed to one part per 100 billion of a particular PCB.

PCB In River Concerns Health Department

Warnings from the State Health Department that a concentration of polychlorinated biphenyl, known as PCB in the Hudson River could be harmful to fish caused some concern locally because two water districts and another institution are using the river water for its drinking supply.

John A. Power, PE, director of environmental sanitation at the Ulster County Health Department said his department was concerned because Highland and Port Ewen water districts and Marist Brothers draw raw water from the river. Power said the permissable concentration of PCB is 1 ug/l (micrograms per liter).

In late summer the County Health Department in conjunction with the State Health Department sampled the two public water supplies and the one quasi-public water supply and found them at the safe level.

Highland registered 0.04 ug/l in its raw water and 0.01 ug/l in its finished water. Port Ewen registered .03 for raw and .12 for finished. Marist Brother tested out .05 raw water and .1 finished water.

All test results are well be low the permissible concentrations.

PULASKI, N. Y.
DEMOCRAT
W. 2,500

OCT 15 1975

Free salmon demonstrations

Free demonstrations on salmon preparations and cooking will be given on October 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. in Pulaski's South Park.

Sponsored by the Cooperative Extension service, the demonstrations will cover PCB's, maintaining fish quality, cleaning, storage and cooking techniques. Pamphlets on salmon preparation will also be available.

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IGCI NEWSLETTER

SIDNEY R. OREM, Technical Director
Industrial Gas Cleaning Institute

IGCI HEADQUARTERS was visited August 14 by David Wood and James Bryant of the Specialty and Process Chemicals Division, Monsanto, for a discussion of the environmental hazards in handling askarel, a form of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). Pending regulatory action on the handling of PCB's is of keen interest to the IGCI because of the considerable use of askarel as insulating and cooling fluid in transformer-rectifier sets for electrostatic precipitators.

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