THE SUN
BALTIMORE, MD.
(MORNING)
D. 178,705 SUN. 340,098

OCT 6 - 1976

In the nation

Monsanto decides to end PCB fluid production

St. Louis (AP)—Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Company, the only United States manufacturer of the controversial PCB insulating fluids, announced Monday that it will quit producing the fluids by late next year.

Earle H. Harbison, Jr., general manager of Monsanto's specialty chemicals division, said the firm will complete distribution of all inventories and withdraw completely from the market no later than October 31, 1977.

The target date would be even sooner, Mr. Harbison said, but electrical transformer and capacitor manufacturers have said they would be unable to convert to other materials any earlier.

PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) is a stable, fire-resistant chemical that is used widely in transformers and capacitors.

"Unfortunately," Mr. Harbison said, "the very properties that have made PCB's ideal and even mandatory for these essential uses were also found in the early 1970's to be the properties causing them to persist and accumulate in the environment."

PCB has been blamed as a major source of pollution in New York's Hudson River.

The New York Environmental Conservation Department and the General Electric Company reached agreement recently for GE to contribute some $3 million toward the cost of cleaning PCB's from the Hudson. The agreement came after a lengthy hearing over leakage of PCB's from GE plants at Fort Edwards and Hudson Falls, N.Y., into the Hudson.

The accumulation of PCB's in waterways, Mr. Harbison said, triggered the firm's decision to cease production as soon as the electrical industry could find alternate fluids and convert its equipment and components to their use.

DAILY NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
D. 2,129,901 SUN. 2,848,796

OCT 6 1976

Firm to Quit Making PCBs

St. Louis (Combined Dispatches) — Monsanto Industrial Chemical Co., the only domestic manufacturer of the controversial PCB fluids, announced yesterday that it would terminate production and distribution of the product by Oct. 31, 1977.

In Washington, the Environmental Protection Agency said it welcomed the action, although "Contamination will continue to be a problem due to the millions of PCBs already in" water bodies, earth, air "and in wildlife and human tissue." In lab tests, the agency noted, PCBs have produced "tumors in mammals."

PCB, standing for polychlorinated biphenyl dielectric insulating fluids, is a stable, fire-resistant chemical that is widely used in transformers and capacitors.

Monsanto said it could have withdrawn from manufacture and distribution before the target date but that makers of electric transformers and capacitors had said they would be unable to convert to other materials any earlier.

The Journal of Commerce
NEW YORK, N. Y.
D. 25,955

OCT 7 1976

EPA Welcomes Monsanto Decision

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Environmental Protection Agency said it welcomes the decision by Monsanto Co. to case production of PCBs.

"Environmental contamination will continue to be a problem due to the millions of PCBs already in landfills, soils, river and lake sediments, in our air and water and in wildlife and human tissue," EPA Administrator Russell E. Train said.

Monsanto said it would stop production of PCBs at the end of October 1977, and allow existing inventories to be sold.

Mr. Train said EPA has been working with Monsanto "to encourage the development of safe and environmentally acceptable alternatives."

MONS 050597