Newsday
GARDEN CITY, N. Y.
D. 444,407 SUN. 344,627

FEB 10 1976

GE's Dumping in Hudson Is Called a 'Grave Risk'

General Electric has violated state water quality standards through its discharges into the Hudson River of a chemical known as PCB, a New York agency concluded yesterday in Albany, but no immediate steps against GE were announced.

"PCBs are toxic substances which pose grave risks to public health and have severely damaged fish resources," said environment commissioner Ogden Reid. General Electric uses the chemicals, called polychlorinated biphenyls, at its equipment-manufacturing plants in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls in Washington County.

Reid made his declaration after Gov. Hugh Carey sided with commerce commissioner John Dyson in saying that GE should be allowed to continue dumping limited amounts of the DDT-like chemicals. Carey and Dyson spoke out after GE hinted that it might close the two plants if the state attempted to obtain a zero-emission level on PCBs.

Yesterday's announcement from Reid was based on recommendations from hearing officer Abraham Sofaer, a Columbia law school professor, who called for further hearings to determine what steps should be taken regarding continued use of PCBs, use of substitutes and cleanup procedures. Sofaer said the evidence established that GE has acted "negligently" and should be ordered to cease damaging the Hudson River.

A GE spokesman in Fairfield, Conn., said the corporation would have no reaction until it could study the report.

MONS 033042