

vol 1, no 19, July 22, 1977

by chemical spills. He also said more frequent monitoring of industrial effluents and stricter enforcement of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits are "sadly needed."

Arnold Leff, Cincinnati, Ohio, commissioner of health, said EPA has not dealt with the problem of water pollution that occurs in river valleys located in more than one EPA region, as is the case with the Ohio River valley. He said three separate regions are responsible for enforcing anti-pollution laws in that one river valley and added it would be "quite easy" to designate one region as the lead agency for law enforcement.

Jackson L. Higgins, mayor of Mt. Vernon, Ind., recommended more efficient monitoring and on-the-spot sampling of industrial effluents. He said all 150 industries located on the Ohio River should be required to list all the chemicals they have on their sites, so EPA "will not be troubled looking for an unknown chemical."

Hazardous Materials

MTD LISTS APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION RULES

Applications for renewal of exemptions from hazardous materials transportation regulations, applications to become party to an exemption, and applications for exemptions were published by the Materials Transportation Bureau July 14 (42 FR 56337).

Comments in triplicate, including application numbers, should be sent to the Section of Dockets, Office of Hazardous Materials Operations, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments on the applications for renewal and for becoming party to an exemption are due July 31 and comments on new applications are due August 15.

Mode indicators for new applications are: 1 — motor vehicle, 2 — rail freight, 3 — cargo vessel, 4 — cargo-only aircraft, 5 — passenger-carrying aircraft.

The applications appear in the Full Text section of this report.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls

NO TYPE OF EXPOSURE TO PCBs IS INSIGNIFICANT, EDF TELLS EPA

Because of their persistence in the environment and highly toxic effects, no type of exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls can be termed as insignificant, according to Joseph Hyland of the Environmental Defense Fund.

At an Environmental Protection Agency hearing July 15 in Washington, Hyland told an agency panel that the use of PCBs in a "totally enclosed manner" is impossible.

EPA held the hearing to receive comments from the public prior to proposal of regulations for carrying out the phased ban on PCBs, the second phase of action against the chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Section 6(e) of TSCA provides that after January 1, 1973, PCBs may not be manufactured, processed, distributed in commerce, or used in other than a "totally enclosed manner." After July 1, 1979, no PCBs may be manufactured, processed, or distributed in commerce.

EPA currently is considering comments on its proposed regulations for the labeling and disposal of PCBs — the first phase of action against the chemicals under TSCA (Current Report, July 1, p. 603).

Resale Provisions

Herbert T. Gilky, director of public affairs, Air Con-

ditioning and Refrigeration Institute, said his industry is concerned with the resale provisions of TSCA — when does one stop selling PCBs as such and start selling something that contains PCBs?

Gilky said that capacitors weighing three pounds or less, which contain PCBs as a dielectric, are a small, but important part of air-conditioning units.

Hyland commented, however, that even exposure to sealed capacitors is significant through the production and disposal of the capacitors.

Hyland said that EDF is opposed to the further sale of existing stockpiles of PCBs and believes that such stockpiles should be incinerated. EDF also advocates strict restrictions on the disposal of PCB-contaminated sludge on land, he said.

PCB use should be restricted only to the servicing of existing equipment, Hyland said, and no further production of the chemicals should be permitted.

Government Stockpiles

Although the paper manufacturing process does not use PCBs, contamination from PCBs in recycled paperboard is posing a problem for the paper industry, according to an industry official.

Richard Wiechmann, director of environmental affairs for the American Paper Institute, told the EPA panel that PCBs were used as an encapsulating agent in ink at a concentration of about 3 percent. Although the practice was stopped in 1971, he said, the ink was used mainly on business forms used primarily by the Government for such uses as Internal Revenue Service W-2 forms. A problem now exists with the Government stockpiling the old forms and then recycling them, he said.

The contaminated business forms, which have a PCB content of about 30,000 parts per million (ppm), are recycled into paperboard, Wiechmann said. The Food and Drug Administration has set a tolerance of 10 ppm for PCBs in recycled foodboard, he said, and the paper industry has set up a quality control program to prevent contamination of the foodboard. No such program exists to prevent contamination of other forms of paperboard, however, he said.

Contaminated Waste Oil

Robert Magruder, Continental Forests Industries, Hopewell, Va., told the EPA panel that his company is concerned about its future use of PCB-contaminated waste oil.

Magruder said his company uses used crankcase oil, collected mainly from service stations in Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia. In the operation of about one-half of their steam generating units. Although the company has informed their collectors that they do not want the contaminated oil, he said, they have no way of assuring that the used waste oil will be free of contamination.

Magruder said that the impact of burning the contaminated waste oil is "minimal" and the process "almost qualifies as a PCB incinerator." Reprocessing the contaminated oil does not remove the PCBs, he said.

If the use of PCB-contaminated waste oil is banned after 1978 or 1979, Magruder said, the company will be forced to turn to more expensive oil, thereby increasing energy imports and eliminating a means of disposing of the PCB-contaminated oil at low cost.

Mining Operations

James Petric, health specialist for the Interior Department's Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration, questioned whether the use of PCB-cooled electric motors in mining operations would be considered a "totally enclosed manner."