Copies to: John Mason
W. B. Papageorge
H. S. Bergen
W. R. Cooey
P. J. A. Marsh
J. R. Durland

E. V. John
10/21/71

BURLINGTON, N. C.
TIMES-NEWS
D. 27,990

SEP 28 1971

Different Guidelines Control Amount Of Food Chemicals

By G. DAVID WALLACE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government yesterday abolished new guidelines for the Food and Drug Administration, said Monday.

Waldon's explanation of the differing guidelines came after government scientists found PCBs started the government moving on a trail that already led through chicken feed, chalkboard and eggs.

Now the FDA has found the chemical in some shredded wheat, spaghetti dinners, corn meal, mixed baby cereal, grits, noodle dinners and 2 cannisters of cake mix, by one account or the other. But the FDA has not found that the PCB concentration rose to twice the safety level set by federal guidelines. In other cases the concentration ranged from less than the federal guidelines to four times the safety level.

The agency has seized some of the products. In the case of the shredded wheat, Waldon explained that the high amount was true in only one sample and the FDA didn't find enough contaminated samples to justify seizure.

The FDA said the contamination originated in paperboard made from recycled cardboard. The regulatory agency said a PCB-bearing carbonless duplicating paper, similar to that used in computer forms, was the culprit.

The FDA is sampling 15 products packaged in such cardboard, Waldon said.

Then there was the poultry problem. The poultry guidelines were set up first. As the pollutant became more prevalent, the lower guidelines were set up for other foods.

"The trash is our attention—millions of DDT-like chemicals with which the PCB problem and no scientists—know about," said Waldon. "The trash is our attention—millions of DDT-like chemicals with which the PCB problem and no scientists—know about called PCBs. But people can take stepped up that has no PCBs or what to do about it."

not shelter or contain contaminated PCBs above the level the differing guidelines," said Waldon.

Keeping it in perspective, Waldon said: "We had to have some sort of action level," John F. Waldon, press officer for the Food and Drug Administration, said Monday.

Waldon's explanation of the differing guidelines came after government scientists found PCBs started the government moving on a trail that already led through chicken feed, chalkboard and eggs.

Now the FDA has found the chemical in some shredded wheat, spaghetti dinners, corn meal, mixed baby cereal, grits, noodle dinners and 2 cannisters of cake mix, by one account or the other. But the FDA has not found that the PCB concentration rose to twice the safety level set by federal guidelines. In other cases the concentration ranged from less than the federal guidelines to four times the safety level.

The agency has seized some of the products. In the case of the shredded wheat, Waldon explained that the high amount was true in only one sample and the FDA didn't find enough contaminated samples to justify seizure.

The FDA said the contamination originated in paperboard made from recycled cardboard. The regulatory agency said a PCB-bearing carbonless duplicating paper, similar to that used in computer forms, was the culprit.

The FDA is sampling 15 products packaged in such cardboard, Waldon said.

Then there was the poultry problem. The poultry guidelines were set up first. As the pollutant became more prevalent, the lower guidelines were set up for other foods.

"The trash is our attention—millions of DDT-like chemicals with which the PCB problem and no scientists—know about called PCBs. But people can take stepped up that has no PCBs or what to do about it."

not shelter or contain contaminated PCBs above the level the differing guidelines," said Waldon.

Keeping it in perspective, Waldon said: "We had to have some sort of action level," John F. Waldon, press officer for the Food and Drug Administration, said Monday.

Waldon's explanation of the differing guidelines came after government scientists found PCBs started the government moving on a trail that already led through chicken feed, chalkboard and eggs.

Now the FDA has found the chemical in some shredded wheat, spaghetti dinners, corn meal, mixed baby cereal, grits, noodle dinners and 2 cannisters of cake mix, by one account or the other. But the FDA has not found that the PCB concentration rose to twice the safety level set by federal guidelines. In other cases the concentration ranged from less than the federal guidelines to four times the safety level.

The agency has seized some of the products. In the case of the shredded wheat, Waldon explained that the high amount was true in only one sample and the FDA didn't find enough contaminated samples to justify seizure.

The FDA said the contamination originated in paperboard made from recycled cardboard. The regulatory agency said a PCB-bearing

Federal Force Combines to Probe PCB

By ROBERT A. HOVING
Chronicle Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Out there in the environment lurks a chemical element that eventually could wipe out an entire civilization.

The danger to the United States now has become so great that six federal agencies have combined into a task force to find out what it is and what to do about it.

The suspected culprit is a chemical compound called polychlorinated biphenyl, or PCB for short.

It costs about 25 cents a pound. It is a synthetic polymer that makes thousands of products more effective, including paint, adhesives, printing inks, insecticides, sealants and many rubber products.

Somehow it is leaking into the environment in amounts more than had been suspected.

The federal agencies charged with the health and welfare of the American public don't know exactly how and why PCB gets into the things Americans consume.

For that is where the real danger is.

PCB is easily transferred into the human food chain. The chemical compound is highly resistant to heat and fire and it is troublesome in water.

In laboratory animals, PCB has been shown to cause cancer and birth defects when it has been injected into their food. The compound is highly soluble in animal fat.

It is a guerrilla long-term buildup in human fat tissues that now worries the nation's top scientists. No danger level in human tissues has been set so far by the Food and Drug Administration, although the agency has arbitrarily set a critical level of PCB in poultry and fish at five parts per million.

That level, however, is highly controversial because no scientist has applied it at this point to the entire human food chain.

After having been recast by the DDT pesticide scare, Michigan's new sports fishery economy — the Coho salmon — is now believed to be contaminated with high levels of PCB. As a result Gov. William G. Milliken has suspended the annual "giveaway" of Michigan Coho to fishermen after the fish have spawned.

The Michigan fish "holocaust" has spotlighted what might be happening elsewhere in the nation.

One problem is that PCB, under the microscope, is similar in molecular structure to DDT. What might have been lobbed among Michigan sports fish in the last few years as DDT could have been PCB.

The use of DDT has been restricted in Michigan and many other states. But little is being done to limit the use of PCB in industry — and won't be until the federal task force report is completed.

It might take as much as a year for the study to reveal the dangers of the chemical to the nation's environment.

The latest scare was a delayed Food and Drug Administration report that at least 15 food products had been contaminated by PCB because it had been used in recycled cardboard packaging material.

The FDA and the Agriculture

Department have alternately taken various food products off the market because of possible PCB contamination then released them, because no federal agency now knows how widespread the penetration of the chemical compound into the human food chain might be.

A small beginning has been made. And that has been in the research laboratories. Only recently have scientists been able to distinguish PCB from DDT and other chemicals in the environment through improvements in gas chromatography, electron capture and mass spectrophotometry.

It would be easy to practically eliminate PCB from the American landscape because it is produced in the United States by Monsanto and Firest Braun only by the Monsanto Chemical Corp. of St. Louis, Mo., although it also is manufactured by other firms in Japan and West Germany.

Legislation to halt production of PCB in this country has been introduced by Rep. William Flynn, D-N.Y. It is aimed directly at Monsanto.

But many problems could arise if the bill became law. For one thing, the nation's already critical energy crisis would be compounded.

Electric power firms have found that a PCB fluid is the only explosion-proof coolant that can be safely used in high voltage electric transformers. No effective substitute for transformer use has been developed.

Reacting to public and governmental pressure, Monsanto has launched a $5 million research and control program to lessen the environmental impact of PCB—if not eliminate it entirely.

It is refusing to sell the compound to manufacturers using it in "open system" applications, such as paints and adhesives, which eventually might leak the chemical into the environment.

Monsanto also is strictly controlling spillage or other loss of PCB from "closed system" operations, such as heat transfer facilities.

The company also has built a $500,000 incinerator to destroy through extremely high temperatures contaminated heat transfer and insulating fluid that it has brought back from various industries.

Finally, the company is trying to develop less-persistent types of PCB, some more expensive and some cheaper, and is encouraging its customers to resort to chemical substitutes wherever possible.

Meanwhile, the PCB problem has many of the nation's top scientists running scared.

One major source of air pollution by the environment already has been pinpointed — the disposal of solid wastes, such as wood

The Burlington Chronicle
BURLINGTON, NCCH,
A. 49,620 Sun. 52,170

SEP 29 1971

PCB

1 copy given to Mrs. K Durland

RECEIVED

OCT 26 1971

J.R. Durland

MONS 033566