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Schreiber warns of PCB threat

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Lt. Gov. Martin Schreiber says Wisconsin should curtail the use of PCB's, which are liquids used as coolants and insulators in electrical systems.

"PCB's, I believe, pose a threat equally as serious as DDT," Schreiber said in remarks Wednesday to a three-state meeting of water pollution control professionals.

He urged immediate action by Great Lakes and Mississippi River states to reduce the presence of the polychlorinated biphenyls in rivers.

Schreiber said PCB levels are "alarmingtly high in Lake Michigan, Lake Pepin and the upper Mississippi and the Fox River."

"Fish from these waters consistently exceed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's human safety guidelines," he said.

"A shipment of Lake Pepin carp was seized by the FDA in New York because it contained almost double the amount of PCB's permitted," Schreiber said.

"To add another dimension to the problem," he said, "The five-parts-per-million guideline is only a temporary level established by the FDA."

"Research going on right now may very well indicate that five parts per million is too high to ensure human safety. This could be devastating for the sport and commercial fisheries of Wisconsin and neighboring states," he said.

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