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Timetable not given

Monsanto to quit making PCBs

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Monsanto Co. has announced it intends to phase out the production of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a group of chemicals which have been termed a significant health hazard by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In making the announcement yesterday, F.J. Fitzgerald, managing director of Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., said it was too early to put an exact timetable on the phaseout but that it would take place in a planned and orderly manner.

PCBs, fire-resistant chemicals used mainly as insulating fluids in electrical equipment such as high-power transformers, have been shown to cause reproductive failures, gastric disorders and skin lesions in mammals.

Russell Train, the EPA administrator, said last month that PCBs should be effectively controlled "with every means at our disposal."

Monsanto is the only American manufacturer of PCBs, producing about 40 million pounds annually at its Sauget, Ill., plant on the Mississippi River. The EPA has listed 37 other plants where the chemical is used in the manufacture of transformers or capacitors.

According to Fitzgerald, Monsanto will voluntarily shut down its PCB manufacturing unit "as soon as we are satisfied that the electrical power supply industries' needs for usable, acceptable alternate dielectric fluids have been met . . ."

The EPA has estimated that 700 million pounds of the nearly indestructible chemical have been produced in the United States since 1929.

It said last month that about 300 million pounds were in use, with most of the remainder dumped into landfills, leaked into water supplies or allowed to sift into production sites.

Train said PCB levels above those allowed by the Food and Drug Administration have been found in fish from the Great Lakes, the Hudson River, the upper Mississippi and off the southern California coast.

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Miami Ne

Sue Cefkin bide

Hospital sued on childbirth rule

By RICK ABRAMS
and BARBARA MALONE
Miami News Reporter

A 24-year-old Fort Lauderdale woman whose baby is due any day has filed suit against Broward General Medical Center, charging that the hospital's refusal to allow her to have natural childbirth is discriminatory.

Sue Cefkin, who is divorced, had planned to have natural childbirth with the help of her stepmother. But medical center officials refuse to permit her stepmother in the delivery room.

And since her husband won't be there, she can't have natural childbirth at all, the hospital has told her, she says.

"The policy of the department is 'husbands only,'" Cefkin's gynecologist, Dr. Raymond Hudanich, said yesterday. "It's none of my business whether it is discriminatory or not."

Cefkin says it is discrimination — and filed the suit on behalf of herself and several members of her natural childbirth class, who also do not have husbands.

Hospital rules permit women who have husbands trained in [illegible] techniques to not going to let her in because she is a woman."

The technique learned by Cefkin and her stepmother, Shirley Cefkin, involves timing birth pains, and reducing the pain by relaxation and deep breathing. The helper assists the expectant mother to stay relaxed.

Cefkin's attorney, Richard Purdy, is seeking a temporary restraining order which would prevent the hospital, a county-operated facility, from enforcing its "husbands only" policy.

The case will be heard Friday [illegible]

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