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BROADCAST EXCERPT

NEWSCASTER: New York State officials have warned consumers not to eat striped bass from the Hudson River or salmon from Lake Ontario. One of those officials is the State Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Ogden Reid, who is on the line with us now. Mr. Reid, why the warning?

OGDEN REID: The warning because the federal government apprised us in some reports that we had high levels of PCB, polychlorinated biphenyls in rock bass samples and in some other fish. Our independent check of this indicated that striped bass were affected and further checks indicated this could have serious toxic effects, not alone on fish but perhaps on human beings.

NEWSCASTER: Well, suppose someone has eaten contaminated fish. Are there symptoms that they look for? What must they do?

REID: We checked on two tests conducted in Duluth, Minnesota, by a federal laboratory and it indicated that (unintelligible pickup) less than one part per million for a period of several weeks it failed to reproduce thereafter. Second test on primates, I believe chimpanzees, who had eaten fish or other material impregnated with the PCB had some effects within two to four weeks of something called Yushows(?) Disease, which involves skin eruptions, vomitting, diarrhea, some eye discharge. The federal government Food and Drug Administration in Michigan is seizing any fish that has any more than five parts per million. The average of the fish at the Tappan Zee that we have is five point seven and one of them was thirty-seven parts per million and the fish, we think, probably will average about fifteen parts per million in the Hudson generally.

NEWSCASTER: Mr. Reid, briefly, PCB is a new one on me.

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What is PCB? Is it a byproduct of the industrial process that's being dumped into the Hudson?

REID: It's a byproduct that is used in the making of paper, paints, inks, also in transformers -- it's technically an aromatic hydrocarbon, which has a high amount of chlorine in it.

NEWSCASTER: Is there, Mr. Reid -- we have about ten seconds. Is there one industry responsible?

REID: Principally, Monsanto, that makes PCB and, in New York, General Electric with two plants...

NEWSCASTER: Thank you very much, MR. Reid. We're out of time.

(NOTE:) Reid's offices are in the capitol in Albany. He isn't in today. Secretary is a Ms. Hoffman. Tel: (518) 457-3446