STATE OF MINNESOTA

EPARTMENT Pollution Control Agency

Office Memorandum

TO : Barry C. Schade
Acting Director
Division of Water Quality

DATE: May 16, 1975

FROM : Joel C. Schilling, Head
Lake Survey Sub-Unit
rough: John F. McGuire, P.E.
Chief, Surface & Groundwater Section

SUBJECT: Update to PCB Problem on the Mississippi River (No. 2).

The following is an update to the first memo developed on this problem dated ay 12, 1975.

n extensive conversation with Mr. Chuck Burrows, Chief, Section of Fisheries, innesota Dept. of Natural Resources on May 15 involved the matter of fish collection and subsequent lab analysis for PCB's in fish flesh from Lake Pepin species. This particular problem stems from a noticeable discrepency between ata on PCB concentration in fish from studies completed by Wisconsin Dept. f Natural Resources and Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (reference is made o a letter from Commissioner Herbst to Mr. Marritt, dated May 13 on this matter). e agreed that fish collection would take place on May 16 in Lake Pepin conducted y the Dept. of Natural Resources Lake City Area District both game and rough fish species. Plans have been made to split the fillets between the following three laboratories: Minnesota Dept. of Health, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, and USEPA Central Regional Lab Chicago. A more detailed memo will outline this situation later.

e discussed briefly the matter regarding a public announcement about the consumption of fish by the public. There is a problem here with the lack of adequate data concerning the human health effects from the consumption of these compounds. We arrived at no conclusion on this matter because of DNR's concern about the data discussed previously. It was indicated that Mr. Burrows would probably contact the Health Dept. for their advice on this matter.

The following is the latest update of Water Quality data on PCB's in the Mississippi River from the routine monitoring program.

Date	Station	Concentration
3-18-75	UM-840(Below Wabasha St. Bridge)	25.5 ppb
3-18-75	UM-826(Above Gray Cloud Island)	35.4 ppb
3-18-75	UM-815(Lock & Dam #2, Hastings)	20.1 ppb
3-5-75	UM-738(Lock & Dam #5)	8.1 ppb
3-5-75	UM-698(Bridge on U.S. 14, LaCrosse)	11.4 ppb
4-2-75	UM-738(Lock & Dam #5)	6.8 ppb
4-2-75	UM-698(Bridge, etc.)	12.2 ppb

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It should be pointed out that these concentrations are the highest values the staff has observed in any surface water of the state to date. Because these values are exceedingly high for surface waters the staff feels that a more extensive sampling of the River should take place with split samples sent to USEPA Central Regional Laboratory for confirmation as to the presence of these concentrations.

Staff members of the Section of Surface and Groundwaters conducted a field survey on May 15, 1975 to attempt to identify possible sources of PCB's to the Mississippi River. Effluent samples were obtained from the Red Wing Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant and the S.B. Foot Tanning Co. Also, tributary samples were obtained from the Cannon River at its confluence with the Mississippi River.