



Environmental News

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TRAIN ANNOUNCES PLAN TO CONTROL PCBs

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell E. Train declared today that the United States must move toward totally eliminating the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as rapidly as possible and must, in the meantime, make every effort to assure that PCBs do not enter the environment.

In announcing a comprehensive action plan of regulatory and administrative actions, Train cautioned that many years may pass before a significant decline in the level of PCBs occurs.

"The public should be under no illusions as to the difficulty of dealing with this problem," Train said. "We have absolutely no authority under existing law to stop or restrict uses of PCBs. Until the passage of Toxic Substances Control legislation by the Congress, we must rely heavily on voluntary actions by industry. In any event, it will not be possible to eliminate the use of PCBs overnight. Even if we could eliminate these uses immediately, we would have to face the fact that there are hundreds of millions of pounds of PCBs out there in the environment--in landfills, soils and the bottom sediments of rivers, lakes, and estuaries--

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which will be there for years, like a delayed-action bomb, and which we have no way to keep from moving into life systems, including humans. With all that we can do, it may take many years before we are able to see a significant decline in the levels of PCBs in the environment. Nevertheless, we must begin at once."

PCBs threaten to destroy the commercial fishing industries in the Hudson River, the upper Mississippi River, the Great Lakes and along the Southern California coast.

PCBs are extremely stable, fire-resistant, low-cost liquids used mainly as insulating fluids in electrical equipment, notably in power transformers and capacitors.

Train announced the following actions against PCBs:

--EPA regional offices were directed, in active cooperation with the States, to immediately establish requirements to virtually eliminate PCBs from the process wastes of all manufacturers of PCBs and of capacitors and transformers that utilize PCBs.

--The leadership of the manufacturers of PCBs and the major manufacturers of transformers and capacitors were called on to develop safe and environmentally acceptable alternatives for PCBs as rapidly as possible. Train scheduled a meeting in January with representatives of these manufacturers to discuss and lay out specific plans to achieve this end.

--The presidents of major electric utility companies and other major users of large capacitors and transformers, such as railroads, were asked to assume responsibility for controlling the use and disposal of their PCBs. To this end, Train invited representatives of the companies and their principal industrial associations to meet with him in January to discuss how this might be accomplished as rapidly as possible.

--Regulations were proposed to control the environmental damage that results from spills of hazardous substances, including PCBs. EPA will move as rapidly as possible to finalize these regulations after a public comment period.

--State Governors were asked to carefully examine and apply their authorities to deal with the PCB problem.

--Selected Federal agencies were asked to immediately inventory their uses of PCBs and PCB-containing materials and to develop plans to assure adequate management and safe disposal of these materials.

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--In addition to these steps, Train initiated a number of other programs to find ways of eliminating the environment discharges from other sources of PCBs including paper recycling operations, the investment casting industry, and the disposal of electrical consumer products which contain PCBs.

"With regard to all of these actions," Train said, "I would again like to caution that they will not lead to a quick and easy reduction of the current levels of PCBs in our environment and particularly in the commercial and sports fish taken from those waters most contaminated. Hopefully, the control of discharges will help arrest the rapid growth of the problem. Ultimately, however, only the elimination of PCBs will yield a significant and permanent solution."

Prior to 1970, half the PCBs produced in the U.S. were sold for use as plasticizers in paints, plastics and sealants, as lubricant additives, hydraulic fluids, heat exchange fluids, and for use in carbonless copy paper and other products. In 1970, Monsanto, the sole U.S. manufacturer of PCBs, restricted PCB sales to manufacturers of capacitors and transformers. Monsanto has been making PCBs since 1929.

Train said that of 700 million pounds of PCBs produced and used in the U.S. since 1949, over half of this amount has already entered the environment.

"We believe that about 100 million pounds have degraded," he said, "while about 200 million pounds are in PCB-containing products buried in landfills and 100 million pounds are present in the air, soil, water and the bottom sediments of waters, and in the body tissues of living organisms, including man."

The rest, 300 million pounds, are currently in use. Train said that only about 10,000 pounds are discharged annually by the Monsanto plant and 37 manufacturers of electrical transformers and capacitors.

A list of the 38 manufacturers of PCBs or electrical equipment containing PCBs is attached.

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U.S. Transformer Manufacturing Industry Using PCBs

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Location of the Plant</u>
Westinghouse Electric Corp.	South Boston, Va.
General Electric Company	Sharon, Pa.
Research-Cottrell	Rome, Ga.
Niagara Transformer Corp.	Pittsfield, Mass.
Standard Transformer Co.	Finlerna, N.J.
	Buffalo, N.Y.
	Warren, Ohio
	Medford, Oregon
Helena Corp.	Helena, Alabama
Hevi-Duty Electric	Goldsboro, N.C.
Kuhlman Electric Co.	Crystal Springs, Miss.
Electro Engineering Works	San Leandro, Calif.
R.E. Uptegraff Mfg. Co.	Scottsdale, Pa.
H.K. Porter	Belmont, Calif.
	Lynchburg, Va.
Van Tran Electric Co.	Vandalia, Ill.
	Waco, Texas

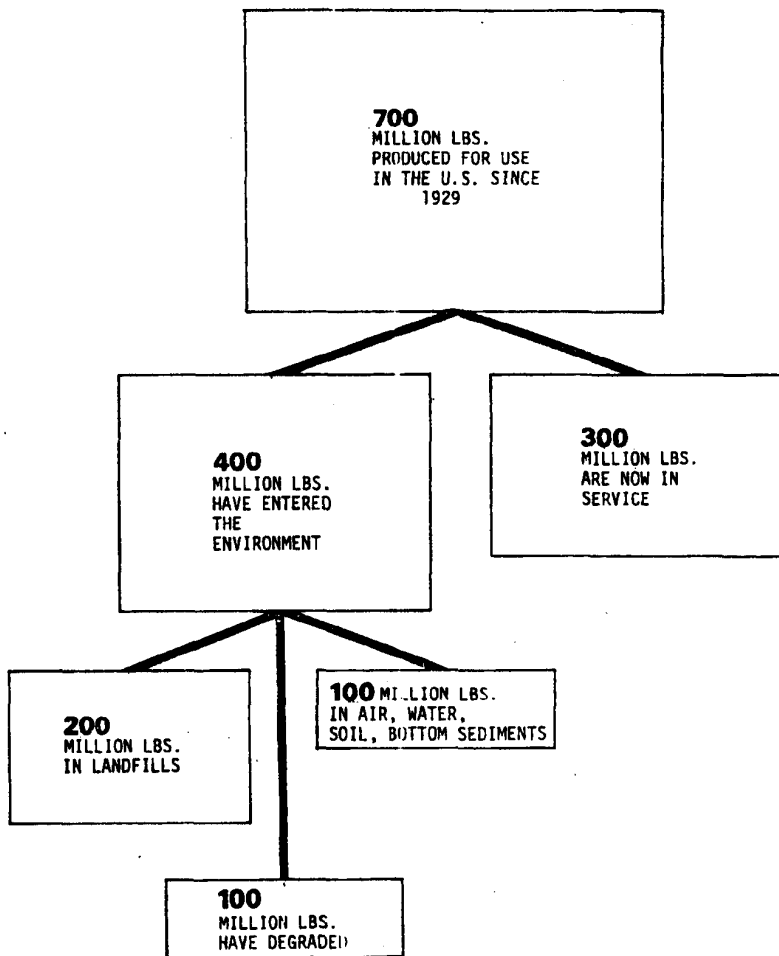
U.S. Capacitor Manufacturing Industry Using PCBs

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Location of the Plant</u>
General Electric Company	Hudson Falls, N.Y.
Westinghouse Electric Corp.	Ft. Edward, N.Y.
Aerovox	Bloomington, Ind.
Universal Manufacturing Corp.	New Bedford, Mass.
	Bridgeport, Conn.
	Totowa, N.J.
Cornell Dubilier	New Bedford, Mass.
P.R. Mallory & Co., Inc.	Waynesboro, Tenn.
Sangamo Electric Co.	Pickens, S. Carolina
Sprague Electric Co.	North Adams, Mass.
Electric Utility Co.	LaSalle, Ill.
Capacitor Specialists Inc.	Escondido, Calif.
JARD Corp.	Bennington, Vt.
York Electronics	Brooklyn, N.Y.
McGraw-Edison	Greenwood, S. Carolina
RF Interonics	Bayshore, L.I., N.Y.
Axel Electronic, Inc.	Jamaica, N.Y.
Tobe Deutschmann Labs.	Canton, Mass.
Cine-Chrome Lab, Inc.	Palo Alto, Calif.

PCB Producer

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Location of the Plant</u>
Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co.	Sauget, Ill.

PCB HISTORY IN THE U.S.



ALL NUMBERS R PRESENT GROSS ESTIMATES