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Monsanto finds substitute for PCBs

By CANDACE HOLLAR

A spokesman for Monsanto Co., the only American manufacturer of the chemical PCB, said today production of the product could be totally phased out in about 18 months.

Don Bishop, press representative for the company, said Monsanto had found a "promising fluid" to replace PCBs, which have been shown to cause gastric disorders and skin lesions in mammals. That fluid is being tested by the capacitor industry now, he said.

Two-thirds of Monsanto's production goes to the capacitor industry, Bishop

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said. Monsanto sells the polychlorinated biphenyls to about 60 manufacturers of capacitors in the United States, and since 1970 has restricted sale to electrical industries, where it is used and sealed and where there is "no viable

alternative chemical."

Monsanto will voluntarily shut down its PCB production at its Sargent, Ill., plant on the Mississippi River as soon as the company is satisfied the electrical power supply industries' needs for alternative fluids have been met.

The replacement fluid that is being tested does not have the dielectric qualities of PCBs, however, he said. "We know of no product that has those qualities," Bishop commented. "The current PCB products we sell are much more biodegradable than the ones sold

before 1970, but they are still slow to break down, and that is the basic reason for their use."

Bishop said the PCBs being sold currently could be destroyed by incineration at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and that the company provides that service for manufacturers wishing to take advantage of it.

The problem of finding a replacement fluid that could be used in transformers is more difficult, Bishop said, since transformers contain about 2,000 gallons of the chemical PCB. Capacitors, such as those made at General Electric in Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, contain only two to four ounces of PCB. "The need for fireproof materials in transformers is much more," Bishop said. "We are not nearly as far along with a replacement fluid for transformers. I would hazard a guess that phasing out that portion of our production is not going to happen within the next two or three years."

Bishop also said the plan to phase out production of PCBs is totally voluntary, because the chemical has been termed a significant health hazard by the Environmental Protection Agency. He quoted EPA Administrator Russell E. Train as saying in January the EPA would not ask Monsanto to cease the production of PCB because it would "bring the country to a grinding halt."

"That is basically why we have stayed in the business (of producing PCBs)," Bishop said.



points in the game and now is only
10 points behind Elgin Baylor, the
all-time NBA scorer.
Rifeek has 22,165 compared to
Baylor's 22,165.

gents nce ruling

I Jim Kitch from personal service
fractis.
sonnet has retained until now the
the to these players in connection
h his position for an NFL franchise
had been...

a huge game at New York Tuesday
night, but I felt if we could control the
tempo we had a good chance. We did —
right up to the third period.

"They broke our patterns with their

defense attack with 17 points each and
Boston erupted for 46 points in the
second half as the Celtics posted their
fourth consecutive victory and seventh
in the last eight games.

LeRoy
Kareem
points all
fourth quarter.

Blazers
Goff Peiris poured in 34 points to
pace Portland over Seattle.

Debut unsuccessful

By FRANK BROWN

AP Sports Writer

Ed Bush, the recently appointed coach
of the Kansas City Scouts, said he had no
reason to be the disappointed coach of
the Kansas City Scouts — despite a 1-3
thrashing at the hands of the Minnesota
North Stars for his team's 12th con-
secutive loss.

"I'm not going to get discouraged or

gave the Islanders their fifth victory in a
row. Garry Howatt and Bryan Trottier
also tallied for New York; Larry
McDonald and Errol Thompson for
Toronto.

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