CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS
D. 56,246
CHARLOTTE METROPOLITAN AREA

OCT 10 1978

MONS 011100

At least 1 man doesn't fear PCBs

By RUTH MOOSE
Special To The News

ALBEMARLE — "People have tended to overreact to the PCB spill," said Ray Harding, plant superintendent of the Monsanto Corporation in Fayetteville.

Harding spoke about the chemical facts of life in an informal discussion Tuesday night sponsored by the Stanly County League of Women Voters.

Harding said, "I can't find any documentation that it is a carcinogen (a cancer-causing agent)."

Scientists have linked PCBs (poly chlorinated biphenyls), to cancer, liver damage and birth defects. The controversy over the chemicals has spread in recent weeks because PCBs were spilled over 270 miles of roadway in North Carolina last month.

Criticizing the warnings about PCBs, Harding cited a study released in April by the National Cancer Institute, which he said discounts a connection between PCBs and cancer. In the 105-week study, PCBs were fed to laboratory animals and the results showed that PCBs did not cause cancer under the test conditions.

Harding blasted the PCB spillings, saying, "It's a terrible act," but he did say he wouldn't move if his family lived along a contaminated roadway.

And if his garden had been affected, he said, he wouldn't hesitate to eat the vegetables except for those directly hit with PCB. "People don't understand the chemical," he said. "It won't spread."