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I was recently discussing the PCB analytical problem with Dr. Donald I. Mount, Director of the National Water Quality Laboratory at Duluth, Minnesota and with Mr. John I. Teasley of the same laboratory. In the discussions they mentioned that the Fish and Wildlife Service Laboratory at Ann Arbor, Michigan had told them of a recent contamination problem they had experienced. Apparently this contamination was traced to the dishwasher soap used in a washing machine for laboratory apparatus. Analysis showed that the dishwasher soap contained 5 ppm PCB. The dishwasher soap in question was "Electro-Sol" which is manufactured by Economics Laboratory, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota. Incidentally, this company also manufactures "Finish" dishwasher soap.

Electro-Sol contains the following materials:

1. Non ionic detergent (E.O. condensate)--1%
2. Sodium tripolyphosphate--34%
3. Anhydrous sodium metasilicate--27%
4. Sodium carbonate--36%
5. Potassium dichloroisocyanurate (ACL 59)--1%
6. Perfume--trace
7. Water--trace

It is of interest to note that all current dishwasher soaps contain an available chlorine additive. Cascade, manufactured by Proctor and Gamble, and Dishwasher All, manufactured by Lever Brothers, contains chlorinated trisodium phosphate.

Dr. Mount and Mr. Teasley are convinced that PCB is entering the water environment as a contaminate and not necessarily from the manufacture or use of this product. One clue about the possibility of PCB in these products is its use as a de-dusting agent. According to the Inorganic Division, none of our phosphates use this material as a de-duster. It is, however, possible that the metasilicate and/or the carbonate salts were so treated.

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