Water Discharge Of PCBs Banned

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Environmental Protection Agency has ordered a ban on the discharge into water of PCB's, industrial chemicals which have contaminated fish in some parts of the country.

"The present problem of PCB contamination in the environment is so severe that in many waters throughout the United States PCB loads are already in excess of the criterion in our proposals," EPA Administrator Russell E. Train said.

The ban is against the direct discharge of PCBs into water by plants using them, mostly installations which make electrical transformers and capacitors. Not affected are indirect discharges, those from municipal sewage treatment plants which will be taken care of by separate regulations being developed by EPA.

New York State has recommended limits on the consumption of fish from parts of the Hudson River as a result of PCB contamination, and similar restrictions have been imposed on certain fish in lakes Michigan and Ontario.