PCB-Articles

Holly Farms' Monsanto Suit $68 Million

GREENSBORO, N. C. (AP)—Holly Farms Poultry Industries, Inc., has filed a $68-million suit against five companies it claims were responsible for Holly Farms' having to destroy thousands of chickens and eggs contaminated with a chemical potentially toxic to humans.

The suit, originally filed in Wilkes Superior Court, was transferred Wednesday to U. S. District court in Greensboro at the request of the principal defendant in the action, the Monsanto Co.

Holly Farms alleged the chickens and eggs were contaminated by liquid polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) which leaked into fish meal being processed at Wilmington, N. C. for use in chicken feed. The PCB was being used as a heat exchange fluid in a closed-system pasteurizing device.

Seeking $68 million in one claim from Monsanto alone, the poultry processor charged that Monsanto violated its own policy of controlling PCB by selling it to the pasteurizing device's operating firm when it should have known the orders indicated a leakage existed.

The suit also seeks $6 million from Monsanto, Fleet Coast Terminals Inc., owner of facilities at the port of Wilmington, and South Pacific Products Association Inc., which leased a port warehouse where the feed was processed; $5,000,000 from Wilbur-Ellis Co., and $5,000,000 from International Products Corp. The last two firms, Holly Farms claims, sold contaminated fish meal.