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Scientist Refutes GE's PCB Claim

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The type of poly-chlorinated biphenyl dumped into the Hudson River by the General Electric Co. can be "acutely toxic" to some forms of life, according to an Environmental Protection Agency research scientist.

David J. Hansen contradicted GE's claim that it was dumping a safe form of PCB into the Hudson in testimony Monday at a hearing here by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

GE uses a form of PCB known as Aroclor 1016 in making capacitors at plants at Fort Edward and Hudson Falls.

Hansen said that form of PCB can be deadly to organisms that live in estuaries, such as the Hudson River south of Albany, when found in concentrations of 100 parts per billion.

Higher concentrations than that have been found in the Hudson near the Hudson Falls and Fort Edward plants, Han-

sen said.

GE has maintained that Aroclor 1016 is safe and biodegradable.

Many oysters are killed by about "10 parts per billion," of Aroclor 1016, Hansen said, and some brown shrimp and grass shrimp are killed by 10 parts per billion in flowing water.

Testimony from state witnesses is expected to continue through Tuesday, possibly into Wednesday. GE officials have said they are unsure when the company would begin its defense.