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Article Blasts Action on PCB

A story titled "Poisoned Fish, Troubled Waters," in this weeks edition of Sports Illustrated charges the Federal Environmental Protection Agency with dithering and dalling rather than taking action regarding the chemical compounds called PCBs.

PCBs, abbreviation for polychlorinated biphenyls, have been the reason state Environmental Conservation Department Commissioner Ogden Reid has warned residents of the Glens Falls area about eating fish from the Hudson.

The Sports Illustrated story includes a picture of the General Electric plant in Hudson Falls which the story notes has discharged PCB into the Hudson since 1942. GE uses PCBs in the manufacture of electrical equipment.

"Scientists in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been aware of the PCB menace for several years but the bureaucrats in charge of EPA have dithered and dallied rather than take effective action," the story states.

"For example, last February EPA officials in New York stayed abatement plans for two polluting General Electric plants at Fort Edward and Hudson Falls after the company objected and requested an adjudicatory hearing to challenge PCB limitations," it says.

The story also includes a large picture of dead striped bass, one of the fish found to have higher than allowed levels of PCBs and thus on the state's "don't eat" list.

PCB has been found to cause sickness in animals and humans if ingested in large amounts.

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