56-67E WATER NEWSLETTER AND
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CONCENTRATIONS OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS found in Hudson River fish are considered so dangerous to human health, state and federal officials deem it inevitable that most, if not all, commercial fishing will be banned there early next year and perhaps for generations to come. Of greater consequence, for Poughkeepsie and three other upstate New York towns that use the Hudson as a source of drinking water, were concentration levels of PCB's in the river found to exceed federal drinking water standards by 100 to 1,000 times. Testing has been ordered in Nassau and Suffolk County sanitary landfill operations to determine if the toxic chemical from carbon paper, car sealants, paints and varnishes has leached into ground-water supplies used for drinking.

The source of the environmentally persistent chemical in the Hudson, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, is two General Electric Company plants north of Albany which have been discharging as much as 90 pounds a day into the waters since 1942. Fish in Lake Ontario, Lake Champlain, Lake George and the Mohawk River also appear to be contaminated but as yet the source remains undetermined. PCB's have been linked to serious liver disease, miscarriages and death in humans as well as cancer in laboratory animals.

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