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Sole PCB Maker Will Phase It Out

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St. Louis, Mo. –UPI– Monsanto Co. announced Monday that it plans to phase out the manufacture of a toxic group of chemicals known as PCBs, which environmentalists contend threaten public health and the nation's rivers and lakes. Monsanto is the sole maker of PCBs.

F. J. Fitzgerald, corporate vice president, would not give an exact timetable for the phaseout, but said it would be in an orderly manner.

"As soon as we are satisfied that the electrical power supply industry's needs for usable, acceptable alternate dielectric

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The board of directors the Washington Metropolit Transit Authority announc the opening date for the fi leg of Metrorail. The 4.6 mi segment will serve five st. tions between Rhode Islan Ave. NE and Farragut Squar in the capital.



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PCB

Monsanto to Halt PCB Production

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fluids have been met, by whomever, Monsanto will voluntarily shut down its PCB manufacturing unit," Fitzgerald said.

PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, has been a necessary ingredient in most power generating equipment, partly because of their unique fire resistant qualities.

PCB chemicals have been used in manufacturing processes since 1930, but their presence as toxic substances in the environment was not detected until 1966. They previously had been confused with DDT, which has a similar chemical structure.

At a conference on PCBs last November in Chicago, an assistant Interior Department secertary, Nathaniel P. Reed, recommended that the federal government impose a nearly total ban on the chemicals.

Reed said he was "deeply shocked by the pervasiveness of PCBs—they are literally everywhere." He said [illegible] high levels of [illegible] found in fish throughout the country, and said the nation's rivers and lakes were in mortal danger.

PCBs have caused liver cancer and reproductive failures in laboratory animals. Some workers using the chemicals have complained of allergic reactions, according to federal officials.

Environmental groups, calling the chemicals a cancer hazard, had petitioned the government to lower the permissible levels of PCBs in food.

Monsanto said it had informed the Environmental Protection Agency and its capacitor and transformer industry customers of its decision.



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