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Manufacture Of PCBs Set For Phaseout

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The nation's only manufacturer of PCB chemicals says it plans to phase out production of the products, probably within three years, and then shut down its manufacturing plant.

Environmentalists have sought to ban the toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PBBs) in Minnesota and other states.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, a spokesman for Monsanto Co. of St. Louis, Mo., said the phase-out may be completed in three years.

High levels of PCBs have been found in fish taken from LAKE Pepin, a wide part of the Mississippi River on the Minnesota-Wisconsin border.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency this week urged the legislature to bar the use, sale, purchase or manufacture of PCBs in the state.

PCBs have been important in the electrical industry because they do not conduct direct electrical current. They have been used in most power-generating equipment.

William Papageorge, the Monsanto spokesman, said the firm is testing a substitute for use in capacitators.

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American Shakespeare Theatre needs 300,000 by April 1 to guard itself gainst the tooth of time and the azure of oblivion.

Not that the 22-year-old theater, ne of the nation's major producers of hakepearean drama, arrived at this inter of discontent without fore-oding. For the past two summer easons, theater officials have har-ored fears of closing.

The theater already has canceled a preseason student program and must close entirely April 1 if it cannot raise $300,000 to get a matching grant.

Board chairman Harold Shaw said Wednesday the need to cancel the program for an expected 70,000 students was a "tragic decision."

Despite a heathy 73 per cent average attendance last season, fund raising for the 1,534-seat theater fell short of hopes, AST president Konrad Matthaei said.

As a result, it was unable to raise about $280,000 to match last year's Ford Foundation grant, a requirement of Ford's five-year grant program, he said.

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