Coll = Aroclor

Chemicals shipped to animal feed plant by mistake

Chemicals sold by Monsanto Co., which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says has no business around food, recently found their way into feed given to poultry, which in turn was eaten by persons up and down the East Coast.

The chemicals, called PCBs, short for poly-chlorinated biphenyls, have a varieth of industrial uses.

In this case, they were used in operating a heat-exchanger, in which fish meal was processed, to kill bacteria before being made into chicken feed. And the heat-exchanger apparently leaked the chemical into the meal, the FDA says.

Monsanto has admitted sending the chemical to the fish meal processing firm, East Coast Terminal, a Wilmington, N.C., subsidiary of Southern Pacific Proteins, according to the FDA.

But Monsanto says employees thought they were the chemical to a petroleum company, a legitimate user of PCBs, the FDA added.

"They (Monsanto) told me that for some time now they've been getting rid of PCBs in all industrial equipment involved with food processing," one FDA official said. "But they overlooked the North Carolina plant because of its name."

The FDA believes the amount of PCBs found in the poultry was not harmful to humans.

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