Possibly tainted fowl sought in 12 states

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department announced Friday a massive search is under way for broiler chickens possibly tainted by an industrial chemical called PCB.

The chemical, named polychlorinated biphenyls, was leaked into fish meal being prepared by a Wilmington, N.C., feed processor.

Officials said that since April 30 the meal was sold to at least 64 other plants in 12 states, including companies that both raise and process poultry for the consumer market.

NO ONE could say immediately how long the PCB contamination might have occurred before it was discovered a few days ago.

The action was the second in as many days by the department. It said Thursday Armour & Co., has recalled its "Genoa Salami" possibly tainted with bacterial toxin blamed for the illnesses of at least nine persons. The illnesses occurred in May and June but the cause was not pinpointed until late last week.

Dr. Fred P. Fullerton of the Consumer Marketing Service in USDA told newsmen there has been no evidence so far of harmful PCB levels in chickens sold to consumers.

THE AGRICULTURE Department refused to identify the Wilmington N. C., plant which made the tainted fish meal.

The meal was sold by the plant to users in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Delaware, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Virginia and Mississippi.

Officials said the FDA provided the Agriculture Department with a list of buyers but refused to make it public.

Tainted Chicken Search Pushed

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