United States Environmental Protection Agency Radio News

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A certain group of chemicals. polychlorinated biphenyls or PCB's, have recently been found in fish caught in the Hudson River in New York State. Fish contaminated by these chemicals have also been found in Southern California, the Great Lakes, and in other parts of the country. Certain birds and animals that eat these fish have difficulty reproducing, and in some species a high percentage of the offspring die. PCB's are commonly used in electric transformers and capacitors as insulating fluids. They are also used as hydraulic fluids, plastics and printing inks. The State of Wisconsin is currently holding hearings on a limitation or possible ban of PCB discharges into Wisconsin waterways. EPA's toxic substances office director, Glenn Schweitzer, testified at those hearings today, August 29. EPA spokesman, Gary Robinson, comments:

> "Schweitzer outlined ongoing EPA activities aimed at assessing and reducing environmental contamination by PCB's. He said the agency is currently in the process of identifying the sources of PCB contamination. He also announced that EPA is sponsoring a national symposium to be held this fall in Chicago to discuss with federal and state agencies. industry and environmentalists selected aspects of the PCB problem and the best means of bringing the problem under control."

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