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They'd Force PCB Firms to Mind Ps & Qs

By ROBERT CARROLL

A group of environmental organizations that have banded together to form the Save the Hudson Coalition, demanded yesterday a strict federal curb on the discharge of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the nations waterways.

Robert Rickles, environmental consultant to one of the groups, said the 80 to 100-year life of the toxic chemicals may virtually end all fresh-water fishing in the United States.

Cites Reports

Rickles warning was based on reports of excessive levels of PCBs found in fish in the Hudson River, Lake George and the Great Lakes and traces of the chemicals detected in other fresh-water bodies in the nation.

Proposals to phase out dumping of PCBs have already been put into motion by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, state Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz has indicated that he will seek a state ban next ear and the state Department of Environmental Conservation is taking departmental action against the General Electric Corp., which discharges PCBs into the Hudson from two plants north of Albany.

According to Kinsley Kay, toxicologist at Mount Sinai School of Medicine who was present at yesterdays news conference, PCBs have proven to be cancer-causing in laboratory animals.

The Save the Hudson Coalition wants discharges of PCBs into water diluted to the one-part per-trillion level. In addition, th organization wants federal research into the best method of removing PCBs from river and lake beds, plus federal development of alternatives to PCBs, which are used principally in electrical transformers and capacitors.

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