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DENVER PHILADELPHIA ST. LOUIS
7836 Big Bend Boulevard - St. Louis, Missouri 63119
(314) 961-4113

CLIENT: Monsanto Company
PROGRAM: Eyewitness News
DATE: 10/1/80

STATION: KSDK-TV
TIME: 10:00 p.m.
CITY: St. Louis

JOHN WILSON: "The Environmental Protection Agency says one out of every two Americans carries PCBs in the body's fatty tissue. PCBs, short for polychlorinated biphenols, are industrial chemicals and used in electrical transformers and capacitors. No one is sure what the long term effects of PCBs are.

"Our environmental reporter, Jennifer Blome, has more."

JENNIFER BLOME: "Monsanto was the sole producer of PCBs in this country until 1977. At that time the company stopped production because high levels of PCBs were being found in fish and the environment. You can still find PCBs today in capacitors and electrical systems.

"No other chemical compound is as fire resistant as PCBs; that is what makes them valuable. PCBs are a threat to the environment because of their persistent qualities. Fish, for instance, take in PCBs through the food chain and directly from surrounding waters.

"Although Monsanto is no longer producing them, the company is conducting research on the toxicity of PCBs. Monsanto officials feel PCBs are not as dangerous as some say."

JOHN CRADDOCK: "It is a toxic chemical, but it's not a cancer-causing chemical; that's not been proven. It's not cancer-causing to humans. There's no data to show that human beings from an environmental exposure have ever contacted cancer from PCBs."

JENNIFER BLOME: "Dr. Jim McEleney disagrees. With a grant from the National Science Foundation this physcian is studying occupational disease.

"Dr. McEleney, do you think that PCBs can be linked to cancer in anyway?"

DR. MCELENEY: "There's (the) combined evidence that says that there is a link to cancer. So even though, indeed, at this point it could not be said from the (incident in Japan) alone that PCBs cause cancer, we take the composite of the evidence from different areas, is what has led the scientists, the International Commission to state that there is a link."

JENNIFER BLOME: "Whether or not they can be linked to cancer,

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one thing is certain--like many other chemicals, PCBs have been disposed of improperly in the past. They are persistent and will remain in the environment for decades to come.

"Jennifer Blome, Channel 5 Eyewitness News."