U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs)

Notice of Public Meeting; Solicitation of Comments

For the purpose of obtaining additional information from interested persons on the development of regulations for the marking and disposal of PCBs, the Agency will hold a public meeting on the implementation of section 6(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Pub. L. 94-469. This meeting will be held on January 24, 1977, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2117, Waterside Mall, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 "M" Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. This meeting was announced previously in the January 5, 1977, Federal Register, 42 F.R. 1067.

Participants are encouraged to focus discussion on the issues set forth below. The suggested approaches are intended to help sharpen the discussion but do not represent the direction that the proposed rulemaking will necessarily follow. The proposed issues for discussion are as follows:

1. Which chemical compounds should be regulated? The Agency has under discussion the following definition of PCB isomers: A PCB isomer is defined as a compound resulting from the replacement of two or more of the hydrogen atoms on the biphenyl molecule with chlorine atoms.

2. What is the definition of PCBs for marking, disposal and manufacturing ban regulations? The Agency has under consideration definitions of the following classes of PCBs: PCB Liquids: A PCB liquid is defined as any homogenous liquid containing an aggregate concentration of all PCB isomers of 10 percent (by weight) or greater. PCB Mixtures: A PCB mixture is defined as any fluid, solid, or multiphase substance containing an aggregate concentration of all PCB isomers of 0.05 percent (by weight) or greater, except for substances categorized as PCB liquids. PCB Equipment: PCB equipment is defined as any manufactured item whose surfaces have been in direct contact with PCB liquids or PCB mixtures and which has not been adequately decontaminated.

3. Which classes of PCB items should be considered for specific regulatory provisions under the disposal and marking regulations? The Agency is considering the following classes of items:

Bulk PCB liquids and mixtures

PCB mixtures - open system uses (e.g., sealants, contaminated rags and dirt, etc.)

PCB equipment - semi-closed system uses (e.g., heat exchangers, hydraulic systems, turbines, motor coolant systems)

PCB equipment transformers

PCB equipment - large power factor capacitors (greater than 2Kg PCB liquids)

PCB equipment - hi-intensity arc light capacitors

PCB equipment - large industrial and appliance capacitors (greater than 1Kg PCB liquids)

PCB equipment - small industrial and appliance capacitors (less than 1Kg PCB liquids)

PCB equipment - fluorescent light ballasts

4. Which uses of PCB items should be considered for specific regulatory provisions under the marking regulations? The Agency is considering the following use categories: Newly manufactured; Inventory (storage); Transport; In use; Servicing; Storage for disposal.

5. Considering the use categories for PCB items described in issue 4 above, what implementation schedule should the marking regulations require? The Agency is considering marking for newly manufactured items to be achieved within six months of final rulemaking. Marking for large power factor capacitors, bulk quantities of PCBs liquids, and transformers in storage would be completed within six months. For other items in storage, except open system uses, marking would be achieved within 9 months by either marking items in storage or establishing a marking procedure whereby items are marked when they are removed from storage and entered into a

distribution system for use. After nine months, markings for trucks and railroad cars would be required for any transport of a transformer and major transports of bulk PCB liquids and mixtures and other PCB-containing items. A major transport of bulk PCB liquids or mixtures is 100 pounds and a major transport of other PCB-containing items is 500 pounds net weight of PCB liquids or mixtures contained within the items. Large power factor capacitors and transformers in use would be marked within 18 months. Individual large power factor capacitors would not have to be marked if markings are placed in the immediate vicinity of the capacitors and a schematic record is maintained showing the location of PCB-containing units so that the units can be marked when they are removed from use. Existing semi-closed systems and bulk PCB liquids or mixtures not covered under storage would be marked within six months. Other than transformers, large power factor capacitors, semi-closed systems, and bulk PCBs; PCB items and equipment in use would not be marked. Markings would be required after six months whenever major items such as transformers, large power factor capacitors, and semi-closed systems are serviced. Hi-intensity arc light capacitors and large industrial and appliance capacitors would come under similar marking requirements after nine months. After six months, any PCB items and their opaque containers stored for high temperature incineration or

chemical waste landfill disposal would be marked. All newly manufactured PCB containing items requiring marking would also require marking on any opaque containers.

6. Which method of disposal should be required for each class of PCB items? The Agency is considering the following methods of disposal: High temperature incineration (2 second residence time at 2000 F or equivalent temperature - residence time relationships) for all bulk PCB liquids and mixtures, and all other PCB mixtures and equipment that are feasible to incinerate based on adequate temperature-residence time relationships, dimensions of the incinerator, feed mechanisms, and other pertinent engineering characteristics. Chemical waste landfill for PCB equipment from which liquids and mixtures have been removed but the equipment has not been adequately decontaminated for recycling, reuse or scrap.

7. The Agency is attempting to determine if high-temperature incineration is the only ultimate technique for disposal of PCBs from the environment during the next few generations. The question is whether or not any PCBs should be allowed to be placed in landfills--chemical or otherwise? If PCB items from private households and small industrial appliance capacitors and fluorescent light ballast from business were exempted from high-temperature incineration and chemical waste landfill disposal, approximately 170 million pounds of the 758 million pounds of PCBs currently in service

would be ultimately released to the environment. This 170 million pounds are contained in approximately 870 million items. Some control of the 170 million pounds could be achieved by disposal regulation of individuals disposing of more than some poundage amount of PCB items each year. The Agency is particularly interested in comments concerning controls that might be placed on the disposal of small PCB items.

8. What procedures should be followed to achieve satisfactory decontamination of PCB containers and casings? Transformers have been shown to be particularly difficult to decontaminate because of the internal configurations. The Agency is considering adapting methods used for decontaminating pesticide containers and equipment.

9. What will be the economic impact of the marking and disposal regulations?

Persons who wish to respond to these issues or make a presentation at the meeting should call Mr. Harold J. Snyder at 202-755-4880. Persons are also invited to submit written data, opinion, or arguments. Written communication on these or any other aspects of this program should be submitted to: The Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Toxic Substances (WH-557), 401 "M" Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention:

Mr. George F. Wirth. All comments received will be made available to the public. Copies will be available for inspection and copying during normal working hours at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Toxic Substances, Room 711, Waterside Mall, East Tower, 401 "M" Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

January 12, 1977
Date

/s/ Kenneth L. Johnson
Kenneth L. Johnson
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Toxic Substances