15-12 CHEMICAL WEEK
WKLY. 63,000

SEP 15 1976

CLIPPED BY BACONS

1965

top of the news

GE settles on PCBs

General Electric and New York State's Environmental Conservation Dept. last week agreed on terms of a $7-million program to deal with polychlorinated biphenyls in the Hudson River. Under terms of a consent order, GE will contribute $4 million. The agreement settles legal proceedings brought against GE in September 1975 because of discharges of PCBs at its Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, N.Y., capacitor manufacturing plants (*CW, Aug. 4, p. 34*).

The agreement provides for the company to make a $3-million lump-sum conbritution to the state environmental department within 60 days, to be used in a $6-million program directed by the agency to monitor and take remedial action against PCB contamination in the Hudson River. GE will also perform $1 million in research on PCBs, and grant the state agency nonexclusive rights to use results of the studies. Included: $400,000 to research the environmental compatibility of its substitute non-PCB dielectric capacitor fluids; $400,000 for research and pilot-plant studies for means to remove and treat PCBs; and $200,000 to study the effect on the environment of three substances that may be hazardous.

In addition, GE agreed to halt use of PCBs in capacitor manufacturing by July 1, 1977. The firm will also reduce discharges from its Hudson Falls and Fort Edward plants to an average of 1 gram/day following completion of a $3.5-million treatment facility in April 1977.

Monsanto's Search: Meanwhile, Monsanto disclosed more details of a medical search of cancer incidence among its present and former plant workers exposed to PCBs. George Roush, director of Monsanto's Medical and Environmental Health Dept., reported that the latest preliminary results show no cases of either malignant melanoma or pancreatic cancer among the 300 present or former workers at the Sauget, Ill., plant—the firm's only U.S. facility that makes PCB products.

In comparison, Roush notes, a recent Mobil Oil study found three cases of melanoma and two cases of pancreatic cancer among 72 employees exposed to PCBs in a New Jersey Mobil plant.

Previously, Monsanto's study found seven cases of lung cancer among 50 deceased workers investigated, which exceeds the national average of 2.7 (*CW, Sept. 8, p. 26*).

MONS 037343