

SYNOPSIS OF TESTIMONY OF KARL BREMER, US EPA, BEFORE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
April 27, 1976

- 1) Review of EPA's position on PCB's
 - A) History of PCB
 - B) Typical applications, e.g. "open-ended", "nominally closed" and "closed electrical systems".
 - 1) Interdepartmental Task Force recommended uses only in closed electrical systems.
 - 2) Monsanto voluntarily limited sales, '72.
 - 3) What has occurred since '72.
 - a) Toxic Substances Act still pending.
 - b) Import of PCB reported.
 - c) PCB found in fish in coastal, rivers and Great Lakes waters especially through Illinois EPA (IEPA) fish monitoring program in Lake Michigan.
 - 4) Health Hazards
 - a) PCB's produce chloracne, and skin lesions in workers exposed to PCB.
 - b) Reported "Yusho" incident.
 - c) Allen studies show "loss of hair, acne, lesions, loss of weight, irregularities in menstrual cycles, impaired ability to maintain pregnancy, and undersize infants.
 - d) Human PCB residue are 1ppm or more in 40.3% of adipose tissue, plus PCB residue in human milk.
 - e) Rats tolerate 100ppm; subhuman primates show 100ppm is lethal and effect level is 2.5-5ppm.
 - 5) Pathways of PCB's to the environment.
 - a) "Improper disposal of transpower oil".
 - b) Vaporization from plasticizers and during improper incineration.
 - c) Region V EPA stack sampling showed ambient air ranged from 140-170 ng/m³. Stack concentration at Northwest Incinerator was 32,880ng/m³. "Possible source include cardboard and small electrical components reaching incinerators".

- d) "Paper recycling industry has detected high PCB concentration in discharges".
 - e) Waste oil recycling of hydraulic fluids.
 - f) IEPA currently working with OMC, Waukegan because hydraulic fluids (oil) containing PCB's caused discharge to range from 4.1ppm to 11ppm in December 1975.
 - g) Expect to deal with this problem for next 10-15 years.
- II) Current action by EPA
- A) Chicago conference report forthcoming in April.
 - B) Administration led to two conclusions:
 - 1) Phase out PCB production & Importation.
 - 2) Be certain PCB's don't enter environment.
 - C) General industry position was cooperative at January meeting with Train. "A specific timetable for phase-out was not set at that meeting, however, a meeting during May will discuss that schedule".
 - D) All the steps US EPA announced on January 27, 1976 were recited.
 - E) "Today's consideration of PCB legislation (by Illinois General Assembly) demonstrates the foresight of this committee- Michigan, Minnesota, and Indiana have passed legislation to phase-out use of PCB's. Wisconsin is anticipating their Governor's signature in a similar bill (see table 2).
- III) Alternatives.
- "With respect to the electrical industry, alternative replacement fluids as well as dry transformers are available."
- IV) Conclusions:
- BREMER gave pitch for the Toxic Substances Act and said "On a State basis, it seems that legislation to regulate and phase-out use of PCB's is a practical front-end approach to dealing with the PCB problem."

Richard L. Hauser
President
Electrical Utilities Company

SYNOPSIS OF TESTIMONY OF ILL. DEPT. OF CONSERVATION 4-27-76

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1.) "PCB's are prominent in Lake Michigan only."
(he included undated table of PCB concentration in Lake Michigan fish.)
- 2.) "Downstate fish samples from major river basins and reservoirs have shown concentrations in flesh far below the US FDA tolerance level of 5.0ppm."
(he included 9 pages of data on PCB concentration in rivers and reservoirs and PCB analysis procedure in fish flesh.)
- 3.) One significant confirmed discharge source to Lake Michigan (O.M.C.).
- 4.) Downstate effluent sampling program (25% complete) on 75 sources with 19 showing very low, but confirmed levels of PCB's.
- 5.) US EPA has undertaken investigation of approximately 25 industries to determine present and past users of PCB, including Monsanto.
- 6.) "Our experience thus far indicates that there are a few concentrated discharges and many very low level discharges."

Richard L. Hauser
President
April 28, 1976