MONS 001040

Philadelphia Inquirer
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

JUL 20 1977

EPA says it will ban PCB sales next July

Chicago Tribune Service

CHICAGO—Sale of the industrial chemical PCB will be banned beginning July 1, 1979, an official of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said yesterday.

The chemical, widely used since the 1930s, has been implicated in cancer, birth defects and nervous disorders.

The EPA's planned general ban would be its first involving an industrial chemical, according to Karl Bremer, the agency's regional toxic substances coordinator. Other general bans have involved pesticides, such as DDT, considered harmful to the environment and to public health.

PCB is a chemical relative of DDT. Both are long-lasting chemical poisons that accumulate in the environment and in human tissue. PCB is a powder, that can be inhaled from the air. It also is soluble, and so can get into water sources.

The chemical has been widely used since the 1930s as a coolant and hydraulic fluid, and in paints, inks, plastics, lubricants and preservatives. Monsanto Corp. is its sole manufacturer in the United States.

A schedule for phasing out its production and use was outlined at an EPA hearing in Chicago, where a number of industry spokesmen protested that the loss of the chemical would hurt business.

E. M. Warner of the Joy Manufacturing Co. of Franklin, Pa., a major manufacturer of mining equipment, told the hearing panel that the ban could hinder coal mining because of the extensive use of PCB-cooled engines in mining machines. He asked for a three-year delay.

Harry Onishi, a spokesman for the Edison Electric Institute, said that the electric-utility industry had long expected the crcakdown on PCB and already has begun phasing out its use.

"We recognize that it is persistent in nature and care has to be taken in its disposal," said Onishi, adding that the greatest impact will fall on electrical equipment manufacturers that use PCB as a coolant.