GLENS FALLS, N. Y.
POST-STAR
D. 18,500

NOV 29 1975

PCBs Hearings Adjourned; State Concludes Case

By CLIFF LEE
Staff Writer

ALBANY — Hearings into the allegedly illegal dumping of PCBs into the Hudson River by the Hudson Falls and Fort Edward General Electric plants have been adjourned for a third time.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation, which instituted the adjudicatory hearings to obtain a legal order curtailing the chemical discharges at the two plants, summed up its side of the case Tuesday with testimony from experts in the fields of physiology and toxicology.

Witnesses Tuesday included Dr. Renate Kimbrough, medical research officer for the toxicology branch of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare's center for disease control in Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. Albert Kolbye, assistant U.S. Surgeon General and associate director of sciences for the Bureau of Foods of the federal Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, Md.; Dr. Robert Ringer, professor in the department of physiology and poultry science at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich.; Dr. James R. Allen, professor of pathology at the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison, Wis.; and Dr. Allen V. Nebeker, research aquatic biologist at the Western Fish Toxicology station of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's research laboratory in Corballis, Ore.

Hearing officer Abraham Sofaer, a Columbia University law professor, adjourned the hearings Tuesday to give attorneys for GE time to review EnCon's evidence and prepare answers. The adjournment was granted upon request by GE's attorneys.

Sofaer told attorneys for both sides that all of the evidence to be submitted in the case should be in by the end of December. He will then review all of the material presented before submitting his decision. EnCon has already submitted more than 1,500 pages of testimony from 17 witnesses.

Testimony taken from witnesses on Tuesday centered primarily around the effects of PCBs on laboratory test animals and the possible effects on plant and animal life in the Hudson River as a result of chemical discharges by various industries along the river, including the GE plants in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls.

EnCon is maintaining that the two plants are dumping in excess of five pounds of the toxic chemical into the river every day and has submitted results of daily discharge surveys which indicate the plants have dumped in excess of 116 pounds of PCBs into the Hudson on various days.

The department is also contending that GE has disposed of PCB contaminated materials in Glens Falls area landfills and has discharged the chemical directly into the Hudson Falls Village sewer system. EnCon feels the PCBs are seeping out of the landfills and sewer system into the river.

MONS 033398