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Monsanto included in \$1-billion

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GREENVILLE - The Monsanto Corp., believed to be the country's only manufacturer of the cancer-causing industrial chemical polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), was brought into the \$1 billion class action suit against Sangamo Electric Co. by Lake Hartwell businesses and property owners yesterday.

It was the second time in as many days that Monsanto had been named as co-defendant in a class-action suit involving PCB pollution. In a \$500-million lawsuit filed in Atlanta Tuesday, the company was charged with selling the chemical to the General Electric Co., which then released the PCBs into a tributary of Georgia's Coosa River, poisoning the fish there and ultimately forcing the water-

way to be closed to commercial fishing.

The Anderson law firm of Anderson, Kenyon and Epps yesterday filed an amendment to the earlier complaint it had filed in federal district court Sept. 10, which had alleged that the Sangamo Electric Co. of Pickens had "either willfully, wantonly, negligently, recklessly and/or intentionally allowed PCBs to enter Lake Hartwell in violation of the laws ... of the United States, its agencies, and the laws of South Carolina."

Sangamo has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the source of the PCB contamination found in the waters and fish of the Lake Hartwell tributary where the Pickens plant discharges its treated wastewater.

A warning has been issued against eating fish caught in the South Carolina

side of the lake, and EPA has ordered Sangamo to curb its PCB discharge to a "nondetectable level" by the end of this month.

The amended suit on behalf of all lake property and business owners - who it alleges, have suffered "irreparable" financial losses due to the pollution of the lake - incorporates the original charges against Sangamo and further charges that Monsanto, which sells PCBs to Sangamo, "knew, or should have known, that the chemical substance was used in the manufacturing process conducted by Sangamo."

The \$1-billion action against the two corporations alleges that Sangamo did use the chemical substance in its manufacturing process and did thereby pollute Lake Hartwell. PCBs, it charges, "are an ultrahazardous product which is

extremely, during environment of wild population

"The defendant was aware or should know this situation, and known that the highest degree of care for use of the substance property warn as potential hazards.

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also alleges that ly liable" for health on the handling and -ments

relations represen-aid this morning that a "long and proud ability" toward its istribution of PCBs -aid, "goes to great

lengths to advise our customers about the potential dangers and the safe disposal" of the compound.

Monsanto officials had not been informed of the South Carolina class-action suit this morning but Bishop said that based on the report of the suit's allegations given him by a Daily Mail reporter. "It would seem we have taken every precaution humanly possible," towards insuring the safe handling of the industrial chemical.

"We don't feel that any suit alleging culpability on our part has any grounds," he said.

Bishop added that the company had sold PCBs to both General Electric and Sangamo Electric, and had "most assuredly" informed them of the environmental and human health hazards

associated with the use and discharge of the compound.

Monsanto, which sells PCBs under the trade name of Alocor, voluntarily restricted the sale of the chemicals in 1971, when they were first recognized as a potential hazard to human health and the environment.

Although the sale of the compound was limited to companies who would use PCBs only in closed electrical systems where they could not easily escape into the environment, Monsanto produced an average of 40 pounds of PCBs per year through 1975.

The chemicals have been in industrial use for at least 45 years, but their impact environmental was not recognized until the late 1960s.