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EPA Cites Johnson For PCB Discharges

Chicago (AP)

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has taken its first action to control the discharge of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) with the citation of a Waukegan outboard motor plant.

The agency Thursday informed Johnson Outboards that the firm had been allowing as much as 2,000 times the permissable level of PCBs to flow into Lake Michigan from some of its drainage spouts.

Recent research has shown that the nearly indestructible chemicals can cause liver cancer and miscarriages in laboratory animals.

The state EPA said PCB concentrations of up to 11,000 ppm were found last year in discharges from seven drainage spouts at the Johnson plant.

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