41-57 PLANT ENGINEERING
E.O.W. 85,000

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ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIGEST

Monsanto Co., the sole U.S. manufacturer of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), has told its capacitor and transformer industry customers and EPA that it intends to phase out production of toxic PCB dielectric insulating fluids. The company reports that it is still too early to put an exact timetable on the phase-out, but it will be done in a planned and orderly manner. Monsanto says that it has been busy working on non-PCB replacement products, which are currently being evaluated by electrical manufacturers.

EPA has been asking manufacturers of transformers and capacitors to develop safe and environmentally acceptable alternatives for PCB's as rapidly as possible. PCB's reportedly are threatening to destroy commercial fishing industries in the Hudson River, the upper Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and along the Southern California coast. Hundreds of millions of pounds of PCB's are believed to be in landfills, soils, and the bottom sediments of rivers, lakes, and estuaries (PE 12/11/75, p. 14).

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