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JAN 28 1976

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General Electric rebuffs ban on discharges

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (UPI) — The General Electric Co. says it cannot meet a proposed 1977 ban on all PCB discharges into the Hudson River from the company's Hudson Falls and Fort Edward plants.

Dr. Edward L. Simons, manager of environmental operations, said Tuesday the company is also arguing that present federal pure waters statutes do not allow the Environmental Protection Agency to order all PCB discharges stopped.

The company also faces a possible September state deadline to halt all PCB discharges.

The chemical — polychlorinated biphenyl — is an insulator used in manufaturing capacitors.

Simons said the "best practicable control technology available" cannot cut discharges to less than 100 grams a day, about 3½ ounces.

Simons said the company contends in papers answering the proposed EPA order that federal statutes do not set PCB standards in either general water quality or toxic substances sections.

MONS 032958