THE NEW YORK TIMES -- SEPTEMBER 25, 1974

EPA ASKS GUIDANCE ON POISON IN RIVER

SEATTLE, Sept. 24, (UPI) The Environmental Protection Agency would like to remove 100 gallons of the poisonous chemical polychlorinated biphenyl from the Duwamish River, but it does not know how.

The agency issued a nationwide appeal yesterday for advice about how to remove the chemical from the river.

PCB is heavier than water and, if left to itself, would slowly leave the bottom of the Duwamish and move first into Seattle's Elliot Bay and then into Puget Sound.

The chemical spilled Friday from an electrical transformer and tests yesterday confirmed that the PCB was at the bottom of the Duwamish River.

PCB has been implicated in the death and defects of seals and terns and moderate amounts of the poison can kill human beings.

Although the Coast Guard, the State Department of Ecology and the environment group agreed at a meeting that the chemical must be removed, Mr. Nelson said, "The only question is how we go about it."

-o0o-

MONS 069031