PITTSFIELD, MASS.
BERKSHIRE EAGLE
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NOV 1 3 1976

Sprague to halt use of PCB

The Sprague Electric Co. in North Adams announced Thursday that it will cease producing capacitors containing toxic PCB by July 1 of next year.

To replace PCB, a company official said, Sprague will use a chemical substance known as Eccol, which will provide the necessary insulation but is not quite as fire resistant as PCB.

PCB has been found to cause failures in the reproductive system of fish, cancer in laboratory animals and deforming skin diseases in humans. The Monsanto Chemical Corp., the only domestic producer of PCB, has announced it will cease manufacturing the substance by the end of next year.

The General Electric Co. in Pittsfield has announced that it will cease manufacturing transformers containing PCB here by next March 1.

MONS 050833