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HEALTH ASPECTS OF PCB EXPOSURE WILL BE DISCUSSED AT CHICAGO CONFERENCE

A highlight of the three-day conference on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) scheduled for Chicago on Nov. 19-21 (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Sept. 29, Page 30) will be a special session Nov. 19, moderated by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and devoted to recent information about the health aspects of exposure to PCBs.

The conference will be hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency in cooperation with other Federal agencies, and will be keynoted by EPA Administrator Russell Train and chaired by EPA's Dr. John Buckley.

EPA is hoping the conference "will clarify the feasibility of further steps that could be taken by government or private industry to help reduce PCB contamination," the press release announcing the Chicago conference noted.

Those who wish to participate in or to attend the conference, which is free and open to the public, are to contact the administrative coordinator for the conference, Franklin A. Ayer, Research Triangle Institute, P. O. Box 12194, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

"Representatives from industry, conservation groups, the scientific community, local and State governments, and the Federal government will be invited to participate," the release stated.

The conference is being sponsored, in large part, because of the findings of high PCB levels in fish in the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, and several New York waterways.

EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement, Stanley W. Legro, responding to a letter from the Natural Resources Defense Council, which had called for EPA actions on the presence of PCBs in the "water environment," assured the Council "that EPA will use its statutory authority to take prompt and appropriate enforcement actions against those who unlawfully discharge PCBs into our air and water."

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