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AROMATIC ORGANICS

NIOSH Report Lists Effects Of PCB Found in Human Tissue

A report released last week by the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health tends to confirm some of the worst fears expressed about polychlorinated biphenyls. Contained within the report is a study that shows a high percentage of Americans have measurable PCB residues in blood plasma and fat tissue.

According to NIOSH, recent studies show that PCBs, in amounts greater than 3 parts per million, were found in 700 of 897 (81 percent) samples of human fat tissue. A general population in eighteen states and the District of Columbia was used for the testing.

Moreover, PCB residues ranging up to twenty-nine parts per billion have been found in 42 percent of 641 plasma samples collected from volunteers in the Southeast.

The "known" toxic effects of PCBs in humans, says NIOSH, include an acne-like skin eruption inflammation, pigmentation of the skin and nails, excessive eye discharges, swelling of eyelids and distinctive hair falling.

Workers exposed to PCBs in the process of fabricating capacitors, in the production of condensers and in the manufacture of chlorobiphenyls have experienced the skin disorders along with digestive disturbances, edema of the face and hands, burning of the eyes, impotence and hematuria, reports NIOSH.

The agency estimates that 13,000 people are exposed to PCBs in their workplaces environment. The majority of these are in capacitor production and in war for transformer processes.

PCB SALES RESTRICTED

PCBs are used in capacitors and transformers because they are chemically stable and the compounds are nonflammable. On July 1, 1972, the production of PCBs was banned by The Toxic Substances Control Act. The Act defined all sales of PCBs to "closed systems" such as those used by electrical utilities.

GE recently admitted to dumping PCBs in the Hudson River beginning in 1947. It was not until 1971 that evidence came to light that fish and fish ponds a further threat to human beings.

The toxic effects of PCBs were tragically illustrated in 1968 when 1,000 people in Japan became ill after eating contaminated oil by the chemical. Estimated at 1,200 to 2,000 cases, the contamination occurred in rice oil when pipes burst in the oil being heated PCBs.

Those affected reported cases of chloracne, skin discoloration and transient view of disturbances. In some patients, symptoms persisted three years after the exposure.

Infants born to poisoned mothers had decreased birth weights and showed skin discoloration because of PCB poisoned placentals. Two stillbirths were also reported.

Weight and hair loss, liver disease and others have been produced in monkeys fed PCBs, reports NIOSH. In experiment studies, the reproductive abilities of animals has been severely affected.

The current Occupational Safety & Health standard of the Department of Labor standards for chlorinated biphenyls are 1 mg per cubic meter for 40 percent chlorine content and 0.5 mg per cubic meter for 54 percent chlorine content.

ACETAMIDOETHYLAMINOETHANOL – The Industrial Chemical Division of FMC Corporation has lowered the prices of its carbamoyl-ethyl-aminoethyl (AAEAE) products by 10c a pound. The new price is $1.70 a

AROMATIC PRICE CHANGES

Week Ending November 7, 1975

ADVANCED

None

REDUCED

None

COMPARATIVE PRICE INDEXES
(1957-1959 average)

Last Week	Prev. Week	Last Month	Year Ago
268.19	268.19	268.19	268.82

For Current Prices See Page 48.

pound for truckload quantities. For 5 quantities, the price becomes $1.80 a pound. The price of monoethanolamine and monoethanol-ethyl-ethanolamine will continue at current price levels, according to the company.

The major application for AAEA is in the manufacture of rubber-plywood dynamite and printing inks.

ISOPROPANOL—Most prices in the Gulf coast region continue to increase, with small suppliers responding to offers from most suppliers regarding a 4¢m increase at 7¢c./lb. a gallon. The major component have been buying heavily to protect stocks, probably in anticipation of higher transfer prices by January 1.

Added demand for the product is still almost inherent of market predictions, with polyurethane, which used 9000 tons of during recovery. As long as that condition prevails, the major prices will be the last to suffer from any material until the first of the year.

At that time, prices will probably rise to a point and it the increase stick, most suppliers look for another 2¢ bump by April.

For the time being, as one source put it, "inventories of a commodity appear to keep a comfortable cushion for trend, without overstocking the trade."

COKE & COAL CHEMICALS—Despite production that was the largest monthly drop in August, falling off July's pace by 22 percent according to the latest Bureau of Mines report. Output of the coke byproduct chemicals, via the coke-oven process, was also reduced in the month. Sales value of crude light oil and naphtha took large losses.

Benzene production totaled only 6.1 million gallons in August, compared to 8.5 million gallons the previous month. Both the toluene, however, are far from the 9.7 million gallons turned out in August of last year.

Toluene production also took a significant slide, with 2,000 gallons made, or 10 percent less than in July. The Feb figure was 224,000 gallons. Going back to August of last year, the government report shows 1.8 million gallons were produced.

Xylene fared better than the other two products, although it also dropped in production for the month of August. A total of 300,000 gallons were produced by the coke-

Aromatic Organic Imports: September 1975

	September 1975		August 1975	
	Volume	$ Value	Volume	$ Value
Benzol	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Toluol, 90 pct	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Toluol, n. o. s., purity 90 percent	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Xylenes	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Naphthalene	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Naphthalene, solid, under 80° C	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Naphthalene, all and derivs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phenol	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phenol, synthetic	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phenol, natural	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Phenolic derivatives	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cresylic acid	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
All tars n.s.p.f.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Anthracene	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Carbazole	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Bureau of Census, from bureaus for oil, gas, etc.

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AROMATICS

ven operators, down 2.8 percent from July. Output in August of 1974 was 300,000 gallons.

Production of crude light oil fell 1.7 percent in August, while production of crude coal tar increased 1.3 percent over the previous month. A total of 14.5 million gallons of light oil and 10.8 million gallons of coal tar were turned out in August.

The general production trend, as with the other products, was significantly less than the rates recorded in 1974. About 17.9 million gallons of crude light oil were made in August of last year and 27.4 million gallons of crude coal tar.

On the other hand, sales of crude light oil were higher than last year and significantly higher than in July. Sales for the month of August totaled 9.5 million gallons, a monthly increase of 28.1 percent. Sales in August of 1974 were only 7.5 million gallons.

Sales of crude coal tar also showed a gain, though slight, of 0.9 percent. The 10.1 million gallons sold in August trailed last year, however, when 30.5 million gallons were traded.

The biggest increase among the aromatic chemicals was for toluene, which posted a whopping 70.5 percent increase in sales for the month of August. The August total of about 1 million gallons was a significant rebound from July's figure of 595,000 gallons, but still below last year's sales figure for August of 1.2 million gallons.

While toluene sales increased so significantly, xylene sales dropped by about the same percentage. Sales of the product were off 70 percent, totaling 160,000 gallons. Sales in July totaled 485,000 gallons, and were 170,000 gallons in August of last year.

Benzene sales slipped 20 percent, which translates into 4.7 million gallons sold during August and 6.0 million gallons in July. The 1974 figure for August was 8.5 million gallons.

In general, stocks were reduced, xylene being the notable exception. Xylene stocks were bolstered 20.7 percent by the sales drop. Benzene totals were decreased to inventory by 11.6 percent; toluene stocks fell 34.4 percent; crude light oil stocks dropped 9.4 percent; crude coal tar stocks lost less than a percent.

Total production and sales of light oil, DTX and crude cumber for the first eight months of 1975 and compared with the months of 1974 as reported by the Bureau of Mines is as follows:

	August 1975	August 1974		
Benzene	44,000	42,227	39,477	37,000
Toluene	442,727	197,000	470,000	257,000
Light oil	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Xylenes	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Solvent	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Styrene	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

Source: Bureau of Mines. Figures are in thousands of gallons. Data for toluene are for manufacturers grades, other data are for all grades.

POLYIMIDE INTERMEDIATE—Ciba Chemical Corporation has decided to follow the lead of duPont and Monsy in increasing the price of its polyimide intermediate. Effective this Saturday (November 8), Ciba will place its Mel. temporarily discount on TDI to 6.2c. per pound, for a new market price of 49.2c. per pound.

The list price of 48c. a pound remains in effect. Terms of payment are 2 percent thirty days, net thirty-one days, f.o.b. plant. Prepaid allowed and provided.

Last week, Union Carbide joined Bebay, duPont and Goldcon Chemical Company in lowering its discount to 6c. per pound. The prevailing market price, then will be about 49c. per pound.

BASF Wyandotte Corporation, another producer of TDI, said last week that its price remains at 55c. a pound. A company spokesman told CMR that "we have no plans as yet to change our price."

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