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PCB Pollution Worries

The possible contamination of state waters by industrial chemicals is causing legislators to take notice.

At the Capital recently the Environment Committee voted to raise for public hearing a bill which would ban the use of PCB's in Connecticut manufacturing by 1980.

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) are heat-resistant compounds which accumulated evidence links with cancer, stillbirths, deformities, and neurological disorders.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is testing sediment in Connecticut rivers and in the Long Island Sound.

Three known manufacturing firms in or near Connecticut now use PCB's. The Universal Manufacturing Company in Bridgeport reported finding the chemical in their discharges, but DEP found no indication in subsequent testing.

The DEP is concerned about potential pollution from this site, and from the Massachusetts firms which discharge into the Housatonic River.

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