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PCB manufacturer to phase out production

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP) — The nation's only manufacturer of PCB chemicals says it plans to phase out production of the products, probably within three years, and then shut down its manufacturing plant.

Environmentalists have sought to ban the toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PBBs) in Minnesota and other states.

A spokesman for Monsanto Co., St. Louis, Mo., said the phase-out may be completed in three years.

High levels of PCBs have been found in fish taken from Lake Pepin, a wide part of the Mississippi River on the Minnesota-Wisconsin border.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency urged the legislature to bar the use, sale, purchase or manufacturing of PCBs in the state.

PCBs have been important in the electrical industry

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