

PEEKSKILL, N.Y.
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Editor

Area fishermen to hear Reid on river pollution

The effects of the industrial pollutant polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) on Hudson River commercial fishing will be discussed by New York State's Environmental Conservation Commissioner Ogden Reid tomorrow morning at St. Mary's School in Peekskill.

Reid will be meeting with commercial fishermen from the lower Hudson River area, at 11 a.m. in the old gymnasium at St. Mary's School. Reid is expected to arrive by helicopter shortly before the late morning meeting.

In September, Reid made the alarming disclosure that PCB's being discharged into the Hudson River by General Electric plants at Fort Edward and Hudson

Falls, have made Hudson River fish inedible in some cases and damage done to the river by the PCB's is "serious if not irreparable."

The PCB's are leftovers in the manufacture of electric capacitors, and according to Reid they have been discharged into the Hudson River for the past 20 years.

General Electric has resisted the state's attempts to halt the discharge of PCB's into the Hudson River. The PCB question is still undecided, and is being battled out in the courts.

Reid stated in September that fish taken downriver from the GE plants had more than 20 times the amount of PCB's in their tissue than the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

says is safe for human consumption.

The warning was issued not to eat more than one serving of Hudson River fish per week, and even less quantities of striped bass. This apparently would significantly curtail the river's fishing industry.

GE has claimed that over the past few years it has significantly reduced its PCB discharged into the river, and it had further stated that the new kind of PCB's now being used are 90 per cent more easily degradable.

Following his meeting with the fishermen tomorrow Reid is expected to attend another meeting with commercial fishermen at Bard College at Annandale-on-the-Hudson.