

MONSANTO COMPANY, St. Louis

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PCB Reported Contained

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Testing of meat, egg products and other foods since mid-September indicates that PCB contamination from a packing company in Montana has been contained, the Agriculture Department says.

Carel Tucker Foreman, assistant agriculture secretary, said Thursday that excessive levels of the chemical, which has been linked to cancer in test animals, generally have not entered the food chain for nearly a month.

Food and Drug Administration sampling of retail food products in affected areas found no food contaminated with PCB — polychlorinated biphenyl — which was banned in 1976, but still is found in millions of electrical transformers.

Fri., October 12, 1979

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Chemical Firm Denies Pushing Sterilizations For Employees

WASHINGTON (AP) — American Cyanamid Co. denies government charges that five women workers were pressured into being sterilized as a condition for keeping jobs that exposed them to toxic lead particles.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is proposing that the chemical company be fined \$10,000 for allegedly requiring the women to be sterilized to continue working in the lead pigment section of a plant in Willow Island, W.Va.

OSHA said Thursday that the alleged action is a "willful violation" of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Federal officials said the citation was the first of its kind.

American Cyanamid, based in Wayne, N.J., described the charges as "absolutely false" and said it would contest them. It has

15 days to do so.

OSHA also cited the company for alleged violations concerning excessive worker exposure to lead and chromium, for which \$25,000 in fines was proposed. The company plans to contest those charges, too.

OSHA standards limit worker exposure to lead, which can damage the nervous, urinary and reproductive systems. But OSHA acknowledges that the standards do not protect a fetus.

Therefore, American Cyanamid said that a year ago, it encouraged seven women of child-bearing age who were working in hazardous areas of the plant to bid on jobs in other areas. One woman transferred to a job at comparable pay, and another took a job at a 5 percent pay cut. Five voluntarily underwent sterilization, the company said.