ENFIELD, CONN.
PRESS
W. 7,288

FEB 19 1976

Chemical Bans Considered

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

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

"This is a new subject to me," said Rep. Thom Serrani, D-Stamford, who proposed the bill. "I want to get information on it out in the open."

PCB's (polychlorinated bihpenyls) 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 where PCB's settle to find out whether levels exceed the federal standard.

Some recent reports have shown increased concentrations in fish which feed on organisms in the sediment.

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.

"In Connecticut we have one manufacturer, but Massachusetts has two. Before we ask them to stop, we have to do it in our own state," said Serrani.

MONS 033118