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DNR to hold hearings on PCB water pollution

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The state Natural Resources Board decided Thursday to hold hearings on approaches to controlling the pollution of streams by PCBs, or polychorinated biphenyls.

The chemicals are used by pulp paper plants and other industries, and government agencies have reported dangerous accumulations of PCBs in fish which find their way to the dinner table.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has banned the sale of carp from the Mississippi River's Lake Pepin.

The Wisconsin natural Resources Department says it has found dangerous amounts of the chemical in the Wisconsin River near Portage, in the industrialized Fox River and in Lake Michigan.

Fishermen have been cautioned not to eat more than one meal a week of fish taken from those areas.

DNR chemists say PCBs have been traced to paper mills' recycling equipment and to municipal waste treatment plants. They said they even found water in which the source of the PCBs could not be determined.

The hearings, whose dates were not set immediately, will concern two proposed regulations.

One would prohibit the discharge into a stream of any affluent containing PCBs.

The other would establish limits on the amount of chemical which could be legally discharged.

The board took no action on a request by American Can Company's Americology Division that the department act faster on an environmental impact statement concerning a proposed recycling plant in Milwaukee.

The board postponed a decision on the Walworth County Metropolitan Sanitary District's request to exempt part of its construction from a federal aid priority system.

A treatment plant at Elkhorn has top priority, but linking sewers are ranked 191st.

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