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EPA Applauds PCB Decision by Monsanto

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Monsanto Co., the nation's leading supplier of polychlorinated biphenyl, used as an electric insulator, said it would stop production of the chemical by Oct. 31, 1977, because of possible hazardous effects on humans.

Monsanto said the phasing out of production over the next year would give time for manufacturers to find substitute materials for PCB. Substitutes developed by the electrical industry are being tested, although they may not prove as effective in resisting fire as PCB.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which had called PCB a "significant hazard to human health and the environment," welcomed the news of Monsanto's decision.

"The Monsanto decision is a significant step in dealing with the total problem of PCB contamination," said EPA Administrator Russell Train.

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