WINONA, MINN.
NEWS
D. 22,000

MAY 15 1975

Results of carp tests due soon

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP) — Results of further tests to determine the concentration of a potentially cancer-causing industrial chemical in carp taken from Lake Pepin should be known by early next week, an official of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, commercial fishing on the lake, which is a widening of the Mississippi River between Red Wing and Wabasha, was at a standstill.

The FDA earlier this week ordered the disposal by burial of 20,000 pounds of carp fillets taken from Lake Pepin. FDA District Director Henry Roberts said the fish, owned by a Wisconsin wholesaler, contained more than five parts per billion of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

Roberts said another 20,000 pounds of carp fillets owned by the same wholesaler, Rudolph Hogue of Pepin, Wis., would be analyzed by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture.

If those fish also contain PCB levels above the 5 parts per billion maximum allowed under federal guidelines, Roberts said the FDA will seek a halt to interstate shipments of Lake Pepin fish.

Officials indicated the PCB probably originated from industrial operations in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, about 70 miles upriver from Lake Pepin. An official of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) noted that although use of the chemical has declined drastically since warnings were issued in 1972, it takes five years for the chemical to begin breaking down.

Roberts theorized that the slower flow of water in the lake than in narrower sections of the river allows chemicals to settle at the bottom. Since carp feed primarily along the bottom, he said, that could explain why such fish would have a high PCB concentration.

MONS 031277