San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co.)
Chronicle
(Cir. D. 504,644)

JUN 29 1982

Allen's P C B Est. 1888

Disposal of PCB Is Being Reviewed

7407

Mobile, Ala.

An incinerator ship began loading yesterday for a second voyage to burn cancer-causing PCB at sea, while federal officials studied test results that indicated possible problems with the first burn.

Marvin Rubin, a special assistant in the Environmental Protection Agency's water division, said the agency requested new tests after smoke samples of last December's burn indicated more PCB was left after the process than expected.

However, Rubin, in a telephone interview from Washington, said the PCB levels in the samples were within EPA standards.

"That's not in question," he said.

He said a few of the first samples received after the ship's return cast doubt on the efficiency of the burn. The agency asked for more tests to be conducted on smoke samples collected in December.

The PCB, polychlorinated biphenyls, were taken to a site in the Gulf of Mexico, 375 miles southwest of Mobile, and burned aboard the incinerator ship Vulcanus.

The manufacture of PCB, used as a coolant in electrical transformers and for other industrial purposes, was banned after the substance was linked to cancer.

Rubin said the additional test samples were expected to arrive in Washington by July 6. He said the samples may not delay the next voyage, depending on when they are delivered.

The ship's second voyage is scheduled to destroy up to 800,000 gallons of PCB-laden waste.

The operation is handled by Chemical Waste Management, a hazardous waste disposal firm that runs a storage facility in western Alabama.

The hazardous wastes have been shipped to Mobile by truck from the storage facility at Emelle.

Associated Press

PCB-ARCH-EXT0378348