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## Water Test Data Awaited

**Connecticut News Service**  
WASHINGTON — Laboratory results next month are expected to reveal whether quantities of the highly toxic chemical PCB are in Connecticut drinking waters.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) New England region began monitoring Bridgeport water supplies in January after it was revealed the city's drinking water contained "small quantities of PCB's."

PCB's, officially called "Polychlorinated Biphenyls," are similar to DDT and have been banned in some foreign countries. Tests have shown the chemical causes reproductive failures, gastric disorders, skin lesions and tumors in mammals.

The Monsanto Chemical Co. is the prime manufacturer of the substance, which is a fluid and used in the manufacture of transformers and capacitors.

During the past two years, the EPA has been examining water samples from 106 communities throughout the nation. In December, the agency reported five of those cities, including Bridgeport, registered

PCB's in their water supplies.

Soon after the findings were announced, EPA started a special monitoring program designed to detect the presence of PCB's. Paul Keough, a spokesman for the New England region of EPA said laboratory reports are due April 1, since the testing was completed last week.

He also noted the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is taking water samples from the Park River in

Hartford, the Quinnipiac River, the Connecticut River, the Upper Housatonic River, Lake Lillinonah, the Niantic River and Stamford Harbor to determine the PCB level.

Last week, it was reported the EPA would be studying the drinking water in Waterbury, New Haven and Hartford to determine the existence of suspected cancer-causing chemicals. That program, however, involves different chemicals. The results are due in 1977.

An PEA official in Washington said PCB's and vinyl chloride are probably the two most toxic substances which have been used with almost no controls. "Now we're faced with the cleanup," he said.

He noted the principal danger of PCB's are when they are consumed by fish and then eaten by people.

"It's a persistent chemical. It doesn't degrade. And when it's consumed by fish, it can magnify up to 750,000 times."