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Officials to meet Thursday on PCB

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The meaning behind an acronym of "evil," which has haunted Mamaroneck in recent days, will be discussed and dissected by the acronyms of "good" when a host of state, county and private agencies meet with village officials Thursday night.

The target is PCB — polychlorinated biphenyl — a toxic chemical known to have caused liver cancer in laboratory animals. Since Jan. 5, traces of the substance have turned up in the utility systems and gas pipelines of several metropolitan area homes. Local concern was stirred last Saturday when particles of PCB were discovered in oil dripping from the gas meter in the home of Norman and Joan Cotrona at 15 Old Post Road.

Although tests performed in the last

few days by Con Edison chemists have shown no further evidence of PCB in the area, Mamaroneck residents have expressed concern. One homeowner on Old Post Road summed up the feelings of many of her neighbors when she told The Daily Times Tuesday, "Honestly, every time you turn around there's something that's harmful."

To find out how "harmful" or harmless the PCB found here is, Trustee Gary D. Bastian asked that a special informational meeting be held Thursday at 8:15 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 169 Prospect Ave., opposite Village Hall.

The following representatives (some with acronyms) are expected to attend: a member of the Public Service Commission (PSC), the state agency which regulates all New York utilities; two persons (one is a PCB expert) from the Department of Environmental Conservation

(DEC) who were invited by Assemblyman John M. Perone, R-Mamaroneck, and Sen. Joseph R. Pisanì, R-New Rochelle; representatives from the county and state departments of health; and James O'Toole, director of public affairs for Con Ed.

Expected to join the village contingent with Bastian will be Mayor Suzi Oppenheimer, Trustees Norman S. Rosenblum, Arthur C. O'Neill Jr. and Robert Funicello and Village Manager Joseph P. Fraioli.

Mayor Oppenheimer, and Funicello, who is deputy mayor, on Tuesday sent a telegram to Con Edison, demanding that a representative with full knowledge of the facts be present at the meeting. They also called for a detailed written report from Con Edison concerning "this possible health emergency."

Perone, who has been in contact with

several state and Con Ed officials since the Cotrona story "broke" Monday, will also attend.

According to Con Edison, 12 parts per million of PCBs were found in the oil samples taken from the Cotrona home. The federal Environmental Protection Agency does not permit use of liquids containing more than 50 parts per million.

Utilities, confronted with the PCB problem, have theorized that the chemical in many cases leaked into the pipelines in the lubricating oil used on compressors by pipeline operators.

PCBs were widely used in insulating equipment and in the lubricating oil manufactured by Monsanto until the mid-1970s. Until this weekend, no discoveries of the substance had been made inside Con Ed's own distribution system.