U.S. aid sought in PCB fight

By JENNIE TRITTEN
Staff Writer

Save the Hudson Coalition, SHC, comprised of various Hudson River environmental organizations, demanded federal action to deal with the Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) crisis in the Hudson River and other fresh water bodies in the state. This demand was made at a press conference held Friday at the New York City-based Institute for Public Transportation.

Dr. Robert Rickles of Tarrytown, environmental consultant to the Hudson Planning Council one of the members of SHC, said, "PCB poses the most serious threat to date to our efforts to clean up the environment. That threat has grown graver as the widespread nature of the problem and the extent to which PCBs may be responsible for human health problems has grown more apparent."

In recent months, fish caught in virtually every fresh water body including the Hudson River, Lake George and the Great Lakes have been found to have excessive PCB levels, it was reported.

Such evidence, together with an increasing awareness of the human health impact, may cause a ban on virtually all fresh water fishing in the United States, Dr. Rickles said.

"Because of the long life of PCB in the natural environment, such a ban may last 80 to 100 years and that would wipe out recreation for millions of Americans and destroy the livelihood of thousands of commercial fishermen," it was reported.

Fred Danback, president of the Yonkers Chapter of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, spoke about the citizen's role to combat pollution of the waterways. "The federal government's new system of pollution control has failed, said Danback.

SHC will hold a conference to develop a citizen's action program to deal with this problem Friday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at 28 Hemlock Drive in North Tarrytown.

Danback and Commissioner Ogden Reid of the State Department of Environmental Conservation will be among the many speakers at the conference.

SHC is looking to give this state agency the authority to regulate importation of foreign produced PCB and PCB-containing products.

"It is estimated about 300,000 pounds of PCB will be imported in 1976," it was reported.

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