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PCB Planning Binder
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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Monday, May 23, 1977

Rules on Labeling, Disposal of PCBs Proposed by EPA

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL *Staff Reporter*

WASHINGTON—The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed strict new regulations for labeling and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, a hazardous industrial pollutant.

PCBs are known to cause severe human ailments such as skin disease and liver problems and are suspected of harming the reproductive system and possibly causing cancer.

Using new authority granted it last year under the Toxic Substances Control Act, the EPA proposes to require a special warning label on all new products containing PCBs. The EPA previously had been unable to regulate the substance except through its water pollution control authority, so its previous action had been limited to regulations prohibiting discharge of industrial wastes containing PCBs into waterways. And former EPA Administrator Russell Train had asked manufacturers and users of PCBs to voluntarily reduce their use.

Under the proposed regulation, high-risk items—such as containers of PCBs—and disposal storage areas must be labeled within six months after the EPA regulations become effective. Electrical transformers and high-voltage capacitors, used mainly in the electric utilities industry, would be given a year to be labeled. PCBs are commonly used as insulators for transformers and capacitors and are particularly attractive because of their ability to conduct heat but not electricity.

The EPA regulations also require that all liquid PCBs, such as those drained from transformers, be disposed of by burning in high-temperature incinerators. Similar disposal of electrical capacitors and small appliances containing PCBs would be required.

Comments on the EPA regulation will be accepted until June 10 and a public hearing is scheduled for June 20.