indicated however that the National Canners Association's proposed Section 12(a)(2)(G) use inconsistent with label amendment had merit.

The Section 18 temporary tolerance amendment stated that "if the Administrator determines that the use of a pesticide may reasonably be expected to result in any residue on or in food or feed, he may establish a temporary tolerance level for the residue of the pesticide upon issuing an exemption."

EPA said this temporary tolerance authority was similar to that provided in Section 5.

The amendment to take out the reregistration deadline would simply eliminate the Oct. 1977 date.

PCB-HCB OIL CONTAMINATION IN MID-WEST SHOWS TOXICS PLAN WORKS, EPA SAYS

The successful coordination of efforts and lack of duplication displayed in a recent crisis involving PCB and HCB contaminated waste oil and solvent in the mid-west proved that the Toxics Emergency Plan developed by the Pesticides and Toxic Substances Enforcement Division (PTSED), Environmental Protection Agency does work and provides valuable guidance to the EPA regions on meshing their efforts with State agencies concerned about environmental control according to several agency officials.

All the contaminated oil appears to have been located and the only problem remaining is a decision on disposal, according to EPA regional officials. However, the process of tracking down the final destination of four tank trucks of the contaminated oil took some bizarre twists and has the ring of a detective story.

No State or federal enforcement action is anticipated. However, civil liability suits may be filed by any one of the firms involved, an EPA official said.

Three States (Minn., Io., and Neb.) and two regions (V and VII) became involved in tracking down oil from tanks leased by Sweet Oil Company in St. Paul, Minn. The oil had been tested by EPA for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in February and was found to be contaminated with PCBs. Apparently when the results of the EPA tests reached the MPCA in mid-March, MPCA went out to seal the tanks and found a large quantity of the waste oil missing and the remainder combined with an unknown quantity of non-contaminated oil.

Investigations disclosed that another firm, Capitol Oil Company, based in Nebraska, might have taken the oil in payment for a debt allegedly owed them by Sweet. However, Sweet reportedly denied having given Capitol permission to remove the oil.

According to EPA officials, the headquarters EPA office and the States involved were all contacted at this point and were kept constantly alerted as events proceeded.

It was apparently discovered that Capitol Oil had already taken four tank truck loads of the oil to Schmitty's Road Oil Company at two locations in Iowa. Minnesota officials were alerted that Capitol might come back for a fifth load. The tanks were sealed and members of the St. Paul Police Department were stationed near the tank. When a Capitol truck did pull up and the driver attempted to unseal the tank, he was arrested and taken into custody. EPA officials noted that the driver revealed that Capitol had taken three loads of the oil to Ft. Dodge, Iowa and another to Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Reportedly the driver was released after giving that information and drove back to Omaha, Neb., where the fire department impounded his truck as a precautionary measure.

Once the as-yet unsampled oil was located at the two Schmitty locations, Iowa officials obtained a preliminary injunction to prevent the transfer of oil from the tanks. Schmitty's apparently agreed to cooperate with the State and EPA officials to close off the tanks until EPA had a chance to sample the oil.

EPA analysis of samples taken by Iowa officials showed significant levels of hexachlorobenzene and other chlorinated hydrocarbons but no evidence of PCBs. However, subsequent composite sampling of oil from both the Iowa and Minnesota tanks showed a correlation between the contents of the tanks at the two locations, according to EPA officials. Chlorinated hydrocarbons were found only in samples from the Ft. Dodge tanks, a spokesman said.

Acceptable Disposal Method is Main Problem Now, Officials Say

The EPA spokesman noted that when it was determined that composite samples from both Io. and Minn. showed 1,000 to 2,000 p.p.m. of PCBs, the investigators were sure they had the right material. He observed that at this point it became a question of finding an acceptable disposal method.

He pointed out, however, that there was a final moment of crisis when one of the Ft. Dodge tanks began to swell and leak. The State officials apparently wanted to transfer some of the oil to the Cedar Falls location to relieve the pressure but were prevented from doing so by a court action. Consequently they siphoned some oil from the tank off into a tank truck, built an earthen dike around the tank and called in the National Guard.

Both EPA and State officials now feel confident that they have located all the contaminated oil and have the situation under control.

All the parties involved had high praise for each other's role in handling the problem and EPA headquarters personnel are congratulating themselves that their Toxics Emergency Plan can help avoid needless duplication of efforts in a real crisis.

HCB, PBS Implicated as Immunosuppressants Well as Carcinogens at SOT

An interesting sidelight to the two substances being found together in some of the waste oil is the fact that they were both implicated in some of the same studies as immunosuppressants in mice in papers given at a recent meeting of the Society of Toxicology. Also HCB was directly singled out as a carcinogen in hamsters at the meeting. PCBs are also considered carcinogens.

In the study pointing to carcinogenic activity in hamsters, Syrian golden hamsters were given HCB mixed into the diet at the dose levels of 50 p.p.m. (30 females and 30 males), 100 p.p.m. (30 females and 30 males), and 200 p.p.m. (60 females and 60 males) for the entire life span. The abstract of the study noted that at this stage exposure to HCB resulted in a significant increase of hepatomas and liver hemangioendotheliomas. Researchers concluded that the capacity of HCB to induce hepatomas and their incidence and latency appeared related to the dose administered. It was also reported that no metastases were found and that no hepatomas occurred in the control group. The paper concluded:

> "The incidence of liver hemangioendotheliomas in hamsters receiving 200 p.p.m. was 9% in females and 34% in males. Three of the hemangioendotheliomas occurring in these males gave metastases. In view of the significantly greater number of tumors in male and female hamsters fed HCB in the diet for their entire life spans the results are considered as evidence of carcinogenicity of HCB."

Both studies showing PCB and HCB to be immunosuppressants in mice involved six week feedings, and one study noted that "the enhanced sensitivity to the lethal effects of the endotoxin and the material parasite suggest a significantly impaired host-defense in environmental chemical exposed animals." The other study also suggested that in addition to the obvious impairment in immunological responsiveness induced by the PCB and HCB, the immune parameters may also be sensitive indicators of toxicity.

PLANT-BY-PLANT ANALYSIS OF PESTICIDE MANUFACTURERS PLEDGED BY EPA

A plant-by-plant analysis of the economic impact on pesticide manufacturers and formulators of required installation of water pollution control technology is being conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The decision