PBB, PCB: Here today, gone?

Are acted from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences said that PCB and PBB enter the body more easily than they are removed from it.

"These are not the most carcinogenic nor are they the most toxic substances. However, we are concerned with how long the substances stay in the body and the long-term effects," said Dr. H.B. "Skip" Matthews.

Speaking at a two-day Michigan State University workshop on enhancing the exerction of PBB, Matthews pointed out that PCB and PBB have spinled out that PCB and PBB have similar chemical characteristics, including insolubility in water.

"Since animals' excretory systems are based on water, compounds not watersoluble will not be readily excreted," he said.

THE RESEARCHER summarized the results of a study conducted at the North Carolina-based institute, where a series of PCES — chlorobiphenyl, dichlorobiphenyl, pentachlorobiphenyl and hexachlorobiphenyl are ingested by rats.

The researchers charted the chemical amounts in the animals' muscle, skin and fat and found that the "penta" and "hexa" forms were much more persistent, especially in the oily lat tissue.

Less than 20 percent of the hexachlorobiphenyl dose would have been eliminated during the animals' lifetime," Matthews said, adding that 69-70 per cent of the dose where "ingestion. He adtributed the slower excretion of the two PCB forms to a slightly different mo-

lecular structure.

In a similar study of PBB's metabolic capacity, the researchers found that, like the PCBs, it was slowly excreted by the rats. Less than 10 percent of the total dose was excreted during the animals' lifetime.

THE MAJOR concentration of the chemical was in fat tissue, with 70 percent of the total dose still evident six weeks after it had been administered, He summarized the results of the study by noting that xenobolics such as PCB and PBB are concentrated in the body's oily parts because they can't be excreted in water.

"Oil and water don't mix" Matthews

excreted in water.

"Oil and water don't mix," Matthews said. These compounds need to be made water soluble before excretion will be increased and they can be eliminated from the body, he said.

Like father, like son

Children may go through a period of political rebelilion, but chances are they'll end up adopting their partents' declogy and party affiliation, says a Michigan State University researcher. Gaye Benson of MSU's political setence department, explained that when both parents share a political dideology, their children will generally follow suit set hey mature into adulthood. Children whose income, education excerns differ markedly from their parents are more likely to develop the initical differences such as switching to an independent party philosophy, Benson feels that current cities are more likely to develop to initical differences such as switching to an independent party philosophy, Benson feels that current cities classes should be offered early strength of the current cities of the current cities

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