

# SMUD To Build Shed For Dangerous PCBs

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SAP BEE

By Thom Akeman  
Be Staff Writer

SMUD will build a \$7,000 shed to store dangerous PCBs until a safe way to dispose of them can be found, the board of directors decided Thursday.

The electric company, which has been accumulating some PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) chemicals about three years already, will put the storage shed in the Sacramento Municipal Utility District yard at 58th and R streets.

The PCBs have accumulated as the publicly owned utility replaces older underground transformers that contain dangerous chemicals, explained Gordon Merrill, SMUD's purchasing agent.

Although some PCBs are shipped to disposal yards and buried, the concentration of some PCBs in the shed is questioned, the wisdom of storing dangerous chemicals in an urban area was questioned.

But the staff of the state Air Resources Board recently reported burning PCBs can create other cancer-causing PCBs and create other chemicals that are several orders of magnitude more potent in affecting health than the original compounds.

That report was prepared under the U.S. Air Force plan to dispose of PCBs by burning them at McChlelan Air Force Base.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has approved the SMUD plan for a 200-foot-long shed in Sacramento; the utility still told the board it will be large enough to hold indefinitely the underground transformers SMUD is replacing, Merrill said.

Board member Rick Castro, who questioned the wisdom of storing dangerous chemicals in an urban area, was possible storage site on the grounds of the Rancho Seco nuclear plant would be high.

In other business, the board awarded a \$5.6-million contract to the Morley Cooling Tower Co. of Mission, Kan., for the geothermal plant SMUD plans to build in the Geysers area of Sonoma County.

The tower engineering information is needed for a state Energy Commission license application for the 65-megawatt power plant, said William C. Walbridge, SMUD's general manager. He said he did not expect a construction permit until April.

City Council  
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