

MID-MICHIGAN

PBB studies need participants

By Morning Sun Staff

A certain group of people are being requested to sign up for studies regarding impact on their health from fire retardant polybrominated biphenyl.

For the first study, called the PBB Multi-generational

Study, three generations of a family are needed: an exposed grandfather, and unexposed grandmother, and adult child (male or female), and a grandchild, according to a news release.

This study, done by personnel from Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., will ex-

amine genetic markers associated with PBB exposure to see if they are seen in children and grandchildren.

“Exposure from mother to child is already known, because PBB can cross the placenta to a fetus, and infants can also be exposed through their mother’s breast milk,”

a news release stated. “This study, however, will focus on the father and whether his exposure to PBB is seen in his children and grandchildren.”

The criteria to participate in the PBB Multi-generational Study are:

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- The grandfather lived or worked on a Michigan farm in 1973 to 1978;

- The grandfather worked or lived very near the Michigan Chemical/Velsicol Plant in St. Louis;

- The grandfather had a child with a woman who was probably not exposed to PBB. An example would be that the grandfather's wife/partner was not living in Michigan. This couple had a son or daughter who was born after 1978 and is now an adult, and this adult child had

a child.)

The second study will examine how long PBB stays in the body following exposure, and test whether ingesting a certain substance will aid the body in eliminating PBB.

The criteria to be eligible for this study are:

- You were exposed to PBB by working at the Michigan Chemical/Velsicol Plant and haven't had your blood tested in the past five years, or never had your blood tested;

- You were a family member of an employee of the Michigan Chemical/Velsicol Plant and haven't had your blood

tested in the past five years, or never had your blood tested; and

- You lived or worked on a farm where animals were quarantined for PBB exposure and haven't had your blood tested in the past five years, or never had your blood tested.

For information on how to enroll in either of these studies, call the PBB Research Team at 1-888-892-0074 or e-mail them at pbregistry@emory.edu.

Anyone who participated in the original Michigan Health Department PBB Registry in 1978, also known as the "Michigan Long-Term PBB Studv." needs

to transfer their records to Emory University to be part of the ongoing data base. Without your signed "consent to transfer" form, the records will not be transferred to Emory University.

To receive information on transferring records call the PBB Research Team at 1-888-892-0074 or e-mail pubregistry@emory.edu.

More information can be obtained locally by attending a meeting of the Pine River Superfund Community Task Force, held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at St. Louis City Hall at 300 N. Mill St.