

The Dangers of EDB In Leaded Gasoline

To the Editor:

In focusing exclusively on the use of EDB as a pesticide, your Jan. 21 editorial about this highly potent carcinogen considerably underestimates the grave cancer risks it poses.

Over 90 percent of EDB usage is as an additive in leaded gasoline. EDB concentration in auto exhaust ranges up to 18 parts per billion (ppb), and levels over 1 ppb have been detected on well-traveled highways and in metropolitan areas. An immediate ban of leaded gasoline would eliminate this "needless cancer risk" as well as the major source of environmental lead contamination and lead poisoning of thousands of urban children.

Such action is long overdue, as is a ban on the use of EDB as a pesticide for which safer and economic alternatives are readily available. If E.P.A. does not act, Congress should.

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Chicago, Jan. 24, 1984