

## FACT SHEET



### INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Wildcat Creek South Bank PCB Contamination and Investigation

Office of Land Quality – Federal Programs Section – Site Investigation

(317) 232-3220 • (800) 451-6027

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

### **Background Information:**

- Past investigations by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) revealed polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination along the Wildcat Creek South Bank near the Kokomo Creek/Wildcat Creek confluence and the intersection of W. Park Ave./W. Defenbaugh Street in Kokomo, Ind.
- PCBs were used widely as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment.
  - The manufacture of PCBs in the United States stopped in 1977 because of evidence that PCBs accumulate in the environment and may cause health effects.

### **Next Steps:**

- In the spring or early summer of 2016, IDEM's Site Investigation Program will be using a direct push instrument to obtain subsurface soil samples from various locations along the Wildcat Creek and Kokomo Creek south banks near their confluence.
- IDEM staff may need to contact businesses or residents to request permission to collect soil samples from their private property.
  - Property owners who are asked to aid in this investigation will be asked to sign a property access agreement.
  - The sampling will be conducted at no cost to the property owner.
  - IDEM will provide the property owners with their soil sampling results at no cost.

### **Environmental and Health Impacts:**

- Left unaddressed, soil and surface water impacts may become more widespread and pose a more significant threat in the near future.
- PCBs enter the body through the consumption of contaminated food and air and through skin contact. The most common route is eating fish and shellfish contaminated with PCBs.
- Based on evidence that PCBs cause cancer in animals, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) considers PCBs to be probable cancer causing chemicals in humans.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration specifies PCB concentration limits of 0.2 to 3 parts per million (ppm) in infant foods, eggs, milk (in milk fat), and poultry (fat).

### **Additional Information:**

- The public may direct questions and concerns regarding IDEM's environmental investigation along the Wildcat Creek South Bank, including information on sampling results to date, environmental impacts of PCBs, and potential environmental impacts, to Justin Hodgson, IDEM Project Manager, at (317) 232-3220; toll free at (800) 451-6027; or by e-mail at [jhodgson@idem.IN.gov](mailto:jhodgson@idem.IN.gov).
- Questions and concerns about health-related impacts should be directed to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at (312) 866-1462 or the Howard County Health Department at (765) 456-2408.
- For a copy of ToxFAQs™ for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), visit the ATSDR website at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=140&tid=26>.
- The news media may contact Barry Sneed, IDEM Public Information Officer, at (317) 232-8596; toll free at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8596; or by e-mail at [bsneed@idem.IN.gov](mailto:bsneed@idem.IN.gov)