



## Clear Lake PCB Site

Office of Land Quality – Federal Programs Section – Site Investigation Program

317-232-3220 • 800-988-7901

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

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

### **Background Information:**

- Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) contamination has been identified in fish tissue and lakebed sediment samples collected from Clear Lake in La Porte, IN.
- Consequently, the Indiana State Department of Health has issued a Do-Not-Eat or limited fish consumption advisory for Clear Lake.
- Sediment sample results indicate that the PCB contamination is concentrated in the central portion of Clear Lake and does not extend to the adjoining Lily Lake.
- PCBs were manufactured and widely used in the United States from 1929 until manufacturing was banned in 1979 due to adverse environmental and human health effects.
- Uses for PCBs included transformers, capacitors, fluorescent light bulb ballasts and other electrical equipment, oil used in motors and hydraulic systems, insulation in cables, fiberglass, felt, foam, cork, adhesives, tapes, oil-based paints, caulking, floor finish, carbonless copy paper, and plastics.

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

- PCBs do not readily break down; they remain in the environment for long periods of time.
- PCBs accumulate in plant parts (e.g., leaves) and other organic material typically found in lakebeds. PCBs are taken up into the bodies of small organisms, fish, and other animals through the food chain.
- PCBs enter the human body through the consumption of contaminated food and through the skin via direct contact with PCB contaminated material. The most common route for human exposure is eating fish and other meat 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.

### **Next Steps:**

- To prevent exposure, follow the catch and release fish advisory signs posted around the perimeter of Clear Lake.
- In the summer of 2022, IDEM staff will collect additional samples from Clear Lake and the surrounding area to identify the source and extent of PCB contamination.

### **Additional Information:**

- The public may direct questions regarding IDEM's environmental investigation at the Clear Lake PCB Site, including information on sampling results to date and potential environmental impacts to IDEM Project Manager Justin Hodgson 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 La Porte County Health Department at (219) 326-6808 ext. 2200.
- Additional information about PCBs may be found on the U.S. EPA website at [www.epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs](http://www.epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs).
- For a copy of ToxFAQs™ for PCBs, visit the ATSDR website at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/faq.asp?id=140&tid=26](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/faq.asp?id=140&tid=26).
- The news media may contact IDEM's media office at (317) 232-8596; toll free at (800) 451-6027; or by e-mail at [media@idem.IN.gov](mailto:media@idem.IN.gov).