

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Dixon Road Site, Kokomo, IN Site Reassessment

Office of Land Quality
Federal Programs Section – Site Investigation Program

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Background Information:

- Elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have been detected at various points in the sediment of Wildcat Creek in Kokomo during numerous investigations over the past several years. Additionally, high levels of PCBs have been found in fish tissue samples within Wildcat Creek.
- The sediment in Wildcat Creek near the Dixon Road site has been shown to have slightly elevated levels of PCBs.
- PCBs are man-made mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds (known as congeners). There are no known natural sources of PCBs. PCBs are either oily liquids or solids that are colorless to light yellow. Some PCBs can exist as a vapor in air. PCBs have no known smell or taste. Many commercial PCB mixtures are known in the U.S. by the trade name Aroclor.
- PCBs have been used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices containing PCB capacitors, and old microscope and hydraulic oils.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) conducted a Removal Action at the Dixon Road site in 2023 to remove PCBs and other contaminants from the property. This site reassessment will seek to determine if the Dixon Road site is contributing to known PCB contamination in Wildcat Creek.
- Under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA, the IDEM Site Investigation Program will conduct a site reassessment to determine if the Dixon Road site is contributing to the contamination in Wildcat Creek.

Environmental and Health Impacts:

- 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 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). Health effects that have been associated with exposure to PCBs include acne-like skin conditions in adults and neurobehavioral and immunological changes in children.

Next Steps:

- During October 2025, IDEM's Site Investigation Program will conduct a sediment investigation in Wildcat Creek in Kokomo to determine if the Dixon Road site has contributed to PCB contamination in Wildcat Creek.
- If excessive levels of contamination are discovered, IDEM may conduct further investigations to determine the source and the extent of the contamination.

Additional Information:

- The public may direct questions and concerns regarding IDEM's environmental investigation in the Kokomo area, to Dan Chesterson, IDEM Project Manager, at 317-233-7528; toll free at 800-451-6027, ext. 3-7528; or by e-mail at dchester@idem.in.gov.
- Questions and concerns about health-related impacts should be directed to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at 312-886-1462 or the Howard County Health Department at 765-456-2403.
- Along with this fact sheet, IDEM is distributing the *Polychlorinated Biphenyls ToxFAQ*[™] fact sheet from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that describes this contaminant and its effects in greater detail. This ToxFAQ can also be accessed on the ATSDR website at [ATSDR Polychlorinated Biphenyls \(PCBs\) ToxFAQs](#).
- For information about IDEM's Site Investigation Program, visit IDEM's website at idem.IN.gov/cleanups/investigation-and-cleanup-programs/site-investigation.
- The news media may contact IDEM's media department, at 317-232-8596 or by e-mail at media@idem.IN.gov.