

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Honey Creek Sediment Contamination Site

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

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100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Background Information:

- Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) contamination has been identified in fish tissue and sediment samples collected from Honey Creek south of Terre Haute, IN.
- Consequently, the [Indiana State Department of Health](#) has issued a limited fish consumption advisory for Honey Creek.
- 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 extended periods of time.
- PCBs accumulate in plant parts (e.g., leaves) and other organic material typically found in sediments. 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 can 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:

- In the spring of 2023, IDEM staff will collect additional samples from Honey Creek and Thompson Ditch to identify potential sources.

Additional Information:

- The public may direct questions regarding IDEM's environmental investigation at the Honey Creek Sediment Contamination Site, including information on sampling results to date and potential environmental impacts to IDEM Project Manager Mark Jaworski at (317) 232-8333; toll free at (800) 451-6027; or by e-mail at mjaworsk@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 -680 8ext. 22 00.
- Additional information about PCBs may be found on the U.S. EPA website at epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs.
- For a copy of ToxFAQs™ for PCBs, visit the ATSDR website at atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.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.