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Toxic chemical found in real estate lakes

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A toxic chemical used in plastics and paints has been found in unexpectly large amounts, particularly in newly developed real estate lakes, in 17 of 39 states sampled, according to government scientists.

Ohio was one of the states sampled.

The chemical is [redacted] chemically similar to the insecticide DDT. It is widely used in production of plastics, paints, caulking compounds and hydraulic fluids.

The PCB findings were contained in a paper presented to the American Chemical Society in New York in August by three U.S. Geological Survey scientists led by Hans J. Crump-Weisner. The Interior Dept. made the paper public yesterday.

Reporting on a federal monitoring program concerned with pesticides in water supplies, the three said they analyzed more than 2,000 water and sediment samples from streams and lakes throughout the United States collected from January, 1971, through last June.

"We expected to find traces of PCBs at sampling points near industrial centers, but . . . "We found PCBs in river water, some newly developed real estate lakes, and at two U.S. Geological Survey stations located in relatively remote area unaffected by man." Crump-Wiesner said.

The study did not say why the chemical was found in some man-made lakes created near suburban housing developments, but presumably the chemical could come from pleasure boat engine spills or construction refuse.

[redacted] and other materials, and through leakage from machinery.

PCBs can enter the aquatic environment by atmospheric fallout from [redacted] from spills, from sewage and industrial waste outfalls, the study showed.

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