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PCB FOUND IN WATER SAMPLES

NEWSCASTER: Detectable levels of toxic chemicals have been found in all too many of the nation's waterways, according to the US Geological Survey. New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are among the states mentioned as Group W's Jim Slade reports.

JIM SLADE: The US Geological Survey says the toxic chemical PCB is surprisingly widespread in the nation's waterways. A statement from the survey says the agency's scientific staff was surprised to find detectable levels from 19 of the 39 jurisdictions covered in their sampling.

PCB is the acronym for a group of chemicals which are related to DDT. Both PCB and DDT are persistent, can group in living organisms, and are thought to be interfering with those organisms. PCB is an industrial chemical which escapes into the atmosphere through factory wastes. The Geological Survey studied more than 2,000 water samples and was surprised to find PCB in areas far from factories or industrial centers. The statement said, "We found PCB in river water, some newly-developed real estate lakes, and in two US Geological Survey stations located in relatively remote areas essentially unaffected by man."

Samples were taken from Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

This is Jim Slade, Group W News, Washington