Message

From: PEIRCE, BOB [AG/1000] [/O=MONSANTO/OU=NA-1000-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=819117]
Sent: 5/12/2010 6:42:06 PM
To: HELSCHER, THOMAS M [AG/1000] [thomas.m.helscher@monsanto.com]
Subject: PCB's in school building caulk

We're continuing to see these kinds of stories.

Environmental Protection Agency ripped over foot-dragging on PCB tests at schools (NY)
May 05, 2010 [by Bill Egbert, New York Daily News]
Theme: Persistent Organic Pollutants/Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics
Issue Area: POPs/PBTs
Importance: **Medium**
Chlorine Industry - Neutral
Pickups: 1
Parents, scientists and officials blasted the federal Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday at a hearing on whether to relax safety standards for toxins in public schools.

"We're questioning the motives behind this," said Deputy Bronx Borough President Aurelia Green. "It doesn't look like it's being done in the interest of students and school employees."

The hearing - on a proposal to change limits set in 1979 on **polychlorinated biphenyls** (**PCBs**) - comes after a Daily News investigation found **PCBs** in the caulking of several public schools at levels thousands of times higher than what's considered safe.
When **PCBs** were outlawed for most uses 30 years ago, EPA regulations declared that anything with concentrations of 50 parts-permillion must be removed.

A 2008 Daily News investigation found **PCB** levels as high as 225,000 ppm in the caulking of several public schools.
When it proposed a rule change, the EPA specifically cited the burden that removing contaminated caulking would impose on schools.
Most of those who testified said any change should be based on science and safety rather than on financial issues.
Ann Casey, a **PCB** expert at Northeast Analytical Labs, said that based on the latest science, the standard should be tightened, not loosened.

"A study that I did myself of very low levels of **PCB exposure** in the air showed negative health effects in rats," said Casey, who has studied **PCBs** for 22 years.

Earlier this year, the city Department of Education reached a settlement with the EPA to do pilot studies in order to develop a plan for dealing with **PCB** caulk in the schools.

Several speakers blasted the EPA for trying to relax standards before studies are complete.

"This method of dealing with the problem is something we would have expected from the previous administration," said Green.
"The Obama administration is better than this."