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River sediment tests show PCB decline

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Sediment samples from the Shiawassee River show a decreasing concentration of PCB's as the river progresses downstream from it's original pollution in Howell, local health officials have reported.

In a letter directed to the County Board of Commissioners, Chuck Newell, Shiawassee County Health Department official, reported that samples taken at the Shiatown Dam show one part per billion of PCB's, the lowest measurable quantity. Since this is the smallest number that can be measured, Newell said, actual levels are probably somewhat lower.

The PCB particles are non-soluble, and sink to the bottom sediments as the river travels along its course. Measurements in Livingston County were considerably higher.

Since the sediment sinks to the bed of the river, health officials recommended against consumption of any bottom feeding fish, especially carp and suckers.

Dr. John Lyons said that no further reports of the condition of fish in the Shiawassee will be issued until all species have been tested.