OhioEPA

NEWS RELEASE

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There is no significant threat posed from PCBs at the ball fields in Jefferson, Ohio, according to a joint statement issued today by the Ohio Department of Health, the Ashtabula County Health Department, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The playing fields are near the Poplar Oil hazardous waste site in Jefferson, which has been found to be contaminated with PCBs.

Soil samples were taken March 9 from various depths at the Jefferson Area Girls' Field (JAG). Samples of the road surface at the Jefferson Area Boys' Field (JAB) were also taken. The samples were analyzed at the Ohio Department of Health laboratory in Columbus. Specific sampling sites were chosen by Ohio EPA with the help of local citizens.

Results indicated less than 1 part per million (ppm) PCBs in the soil at the ball fields. Levels up to 1 ppm are considered "background" or normal, and pose little if any health threat.

Robert Indian, an epidemiologist with the Ohio Department of Health, explained, "The soil sample results have been reviewed by both the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Since all reported levels are in the less than 1 ppm range, ODH and CDC do not feel that a health threat is present in the areas tested. There appears to be no reason why the ball fields cannot be used by the public."

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State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
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