DRAFT

Dear ,

A study reviewing PCB concentrations in the Great Lakes was recently completed, and I thought you'd be interested in the results. The study sought to confirm several reports over the last few years of "plateauing" of PCB levels in some media, a phenomenon which did not make sense since the use of PCB equipment and release of PCBs to the environment are highly regulated and have decreased over the years. The study looked at PCB concentrations in the water and biological systems in the Great Lakes; specifically, Lake Superior, Lake Ontario and the Niagara River. These waterways were chosen for their high quality, consistent data.

Extensive analysis of the data indicated that:

- PCBs levels continue to fall in the water column, biota and probably overlying air.
- No firm evidence of any "new equilibria" in any medium was found in the data.
- The evidence detailed in the report suggests that PCBs will continue to fall for some time in the future.
- Since PCB levels in the Great Lakes are linked through air and water, trends observed in Lake Superior, Lake Ontario and the Niagara River will hold for the Great Lakes system as a whole.

This study was conducted by Smith Environmental, a leading environmental research firm at the request of the National Electrical Manufacturing Association, the Utility Solid Waste Activities Group and the PCB Panel of the Chemical Manufacturers Association. A copy of the study is attached. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to call Leah Porter of CMA at (703) 741-5625.