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PCB pollution found in Monroe locations

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Test results by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have found PCB pollution in several locations in Monroe County.

Similar PCB test results taken in Salt Creek at the Bedford water treatment plant intake will be released next week by the EPA regional office in Evansville.

According to David Stoltenber, of EPA's Evansville office, PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) is being discharged from the Westinghouse plant in Bloomington.

Test results show PCB's are found in these Monroe County locations:

—At the Bloomington sewage treatment plant on Clear Creek.

—In the Westinghouse plant area which is then run off into Sinking Creek and eventually into Clear and Salt Creeks.

—At three county landfills. These are the Monroe County landfill, Neal Landfill, and Neal's Dump.

—In the soil and in drainage from these three landfills which reaches the west fork of White River.

The Bedford area could be affected by possible PCB pollution coming through Salt Creek. The city operates the intake plant there about one day a week to obtain water for the city.

PCBs have been blamed for stillbirths and birth defects in animals and humans. At a November conference in Chicago a report was given about PCB pollution in a Japanese industrial community where Yusho disease brought about by the presence of PCBs in rice oil, resulted in eye discharges, severe acne, ulcers of the uterus and darkening of the skin. Stillbirths and miscarriages and infants with abnormal skin pigmentation were traced to PBCs.

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