



JOE D. TANNER
Commissioner

J. LEONARD LEDBETTER
Division Director

Department of Natural Resources

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
270 WASHINGTON STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

September 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM

TO: J. Leonard Ledbetter
THRU: Gene B. Welsh
FROM: William M. Jernigan
RE: Citizen Inquiries PCB
Coosa River, Rome, Georgia

As requested in the attached note, the enclosed citizen inquiries regarding PCBs were investigated while our evaluation survey was being conducted at the General Electric plant during the week of September 20, 1976.

1. In response to the letter from Mrs. R. L. Sanders, I contacted her by phone at 5:15 on September 21, 1976. She advised that her house was located about 200 yards south of the Lavender Road crossing over the Little Dry Creek tributary which receives drainage from the G.E. serial discharge 004. She has a garden located on the opposite side of the creek bed from her house. During extremely heavy rainfall situations she stated that the creek flooded out into the garden area. She was advised that we had already established a sediment sampling station at the Lavender Road crossing. She was pleased to hear that we were investigating in that area and wanted to know if we would advise the citizens if our findings indicated any reason to be concerned over human health. I assured her that of course we would. She inquired as to whether it was possible for PCBs to move from soil into vegetable. I advised her that it was possible but that since the location of her garden was only very infrequently flooded and since serial discharge 004 was not associated with a heavily contaminated area at the G.E. plant the probability that a significant accumulation could have occurred in the area of her garden was in my opinion low.
2. Attempts to reach Mr. Dempsey, the senior sanitation at the Floyd County Health Department, to respond to the questions and problems presented in his September 13, 1976 letter proved unsuccessful as he was out of the office each time I called. However, I did not have an opportunity to speak with him until after the 1976 Reviews. Each question must then be phrased as follows:

100-1116
SEP 30 1976
JW

MONS 030549

September 30, 1976

- (1) The stream located near the residence of Mr. William Nelson, 303 Lakespur Lane, is Horselee Creek just downstream of the conjunction with the drainage from serial 003 and 004 in the General Electric Company's plant property. Mr. Dempsey advised that the report by Mr. Nelson that he had seen dead fish in the stream referred to an observation he had made several years ago. The recent publicity on PCB contamination brought the instance back to mind and resulted in his subsequent report of it to Mr. Dempsey. No additional details had been reported that might relate this observation to PCBs.
- (2) The residence of Mrs. Carrie Kostopolis, 38 Dorley Drive, was located and found to be in the Garden Lakes subdivision area which is to the northwest of the General Electric Company plant site. There is no drainage whatsoever from the General Electric plant site into the Garden Lakes subdivision area. The area where the dead trees are located according to Mr. Dempsey, is low and becomes inundated and water saturated after the slightest rainfall. Mr. Dempsey concurred that the trees probably died from having their root systems constantly submerged in water. He had not observed the oily substance reported by Mrs. Kostopolis and could provide no further information as to the nature of it.
- (3) Mr. Dempsey stated that the question regarding danger to livestock drinking water had originated from a cattle farmer south of town who pumps Coosa River water into watering troughs in his pasture area. Mr. Dempsey was advised that cattle, just like fish, could accumulate PCBs from water in their fat tissue but we had no reason to believe the concentration in the Coosa River water was high enough to have resulted in significant bio-accumulation in cattle. The only sure way to determine if there had been any significant accumulation would be to obtain tissue samples from some of the cattle. It was suggested that the farmer be contacted to see if water could be obtained from some other source such as a farm pond or tributary into the Coosa if he wanted to eliminate any possibility.
- (4) The Garden Lakes Subdivision is approximately one mile northwest of the General Electric plant site and does not receive drainage from any of the plant site whatsoever. Mr. Dempsey was advised that on this basis there was no reason to suspect that the fishing lakes located in the subdivision were in any way contaminated with PCBs.