To EA John
Dek. 9/22/72

THE EVENING STAR and DAILY NEWS
Washington, D. C., Thursday, September 21, 1972

Toxic Chemicals Found In Reston's Lake Anne

Water samples from Reston's Lake Anne have been found to contain PCBs, one of the most widely used chemical families in industry, and which scientists now believe to be more toxic than the chemically similar insecticide DDT.

There is no industry near Reston, however, from which the PCBs might have come, noted U.S. Geological Survey scientists who reported the discovery of PCBs in the waterse of 17 of 39 states tested.

While the test equipment used was not able to determine if the PCBs, found in all the samples taken from the streams and the 30-acre lake, exceeded the EPAs recommended limit, the concentration of the chemicals found in two bluegills caught in the lake were less than one-tenth of the FDAs limit for food.

The chemicals, polychlorinated bi-phenyls, are used in such products as printing inks, adhesives, plastics, electrical transformers and hydraulic fluid.

More than a billion pounds of PCBs have been manufactured in this country alone over more than 40 years. PCBs were first isolated from the environment in 1966 by Swedish researchers investigating the toxic effects of DDT on wildlife.

PCBs have since been found to cause skin ailments, liver and birth defects in laboratory test animals.

While their effects on humans have not been determined, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration have set limits on their presence in water and food.

The discovery of PCBs in Lake Anne and the small streams which flow into it were reported as part of the larger study to the American Chemical Society last month by three U.S. Geological Survey scientists last month.

Vernon J. Walker, environmental director of the Reston Homeowners' Association, which owns and maintains Lake Anne, said one of the scientists, James Martell, got the association's permission to sample the water and sediment of the lake and the small streams which feed it.

Martell was frustrated because he could find no pattern, no single source to which the contamination could be traced, Walker said today.

Walker conjectured the PCBs might have come from construction sites, and from automobile tires.

"The answer is to stop using PCBs," he said.

MONS 069748