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...o traces of PCB spills found in Guilford County

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...ills have been reported in Guilford County, and ...ority no data on how much, if any, of the land ...e transported through the area or is being used ...

...veral state agencies continue to search for a ...of the chemical, which has been dumped into ...d miles of state roads, and to apprehend those ...gal dumps.

...ston, environmental health director in Guil... he has no idea if any polychlorinated biphenyl ...ked in or shipped through the county, and has ...of action in case of a spill.

...er R., Stronfield said, "I've had real trouble ... every client it in Guilford County. I'd ask them I'd look at it and see what we're going to ...

... of the N.C. Department of Transportation ... and the U.S. Department of Commerce likewise reported they have no data on the shipment or use of PCB here, and no spills ... land to the county manager reported there are no records indicating whether the chemical is stored in Guilford County.

A local chemist did say he would be surprised if any local industries use the chemical, which is no longer being produced.

The chemist, who asked not to be identified, said the chemical was formerly used in transformers and other electrical equipment because it is an excellent heat insulator that does not conduct electricity. It was also used in hydraulic fluid, in machinery and in wood and petroleum preservatives.

"I would expect an accidental if anyone is using it enough... anything around here," the chemist said. "I'm certainly not aware of how many locally have stocks."

PCB is an oily chemical, with some of its qualities similar to DDT and other pesticides. But the chemist said PCB... and DDT are quite different when they are examined...

"DDT is designed to kill things, and PCB is designed to... chemist said. "But PCB is not designed to kill anything, it's just a chemical"—meaning that it has certain properties for a ... their poisonous qualities for ... life in the environment.

Because of that characteristic, PCB can be transferred along the food chain from the soil to plants, then on to animals and eventually to humans, according to the chemist. "And there can be an awful lot of bad things about it," he added.

Harry Stockton, a public affairs officer with the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, said PCB has caused environmental problems where soils were... density... parts per million. Although there are traces... found in... people in... Stockton said it is not known if it presented a... problem.

Divided and... [illegible] ... state and local environmental officers, who will... the Department of Natural Resources and other... agencies.

Those... [illegible] ... of the PCB spills... [illegible] ... state residents, officials said. Most of the... [illegible] ... were not reported. Others were... [illegible] ... and many... [illegible] ... in Alamance County... [illegible] ... in Greensboro.

...1,000 parts per million of PCB in the soil at the site, but recorded only three parts per million in 1 county ...

"Our general feeling is we're doing to look at 50 parts million as something we wouldn't feel considerable risk," said.

Currently, the department is spraying contaminated with chemical in a spray solution to see if the chemical... neutralize the chemical.

If that doesn't work, federal assistance may be asked... safe disposal of the PCB.

The State Bureau of Investigation... agent who is in... a three-man team investigating the spills said... to find and... companies... ship PCB through... Carolina, and are talking to officials of... companies... how or when the chemical...

... agent Don Gilbert said he does not know... any... shipping or use of PCB in N... Carolina, or is... to be shipped through North Carolina. He added he... have been aware of any violations of the state... the... guidelines.

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