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Traces of Chemicals Found in State Waters

HARRISBURG (AP) — Small amounts of potentially harmful chemicals have turned up in a number of water systems and rivers around the state. But the state says there is no danger.

Surveys by the Department of Environmental Resources found traces of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Lock Haven and Lewistown water supplies.

Dr. Maurice Goddard, DER secretary, said Lock Haven had only 0.02 parts per billion and Lewistown 0.5 parts per billion of the substance.

PCBs were also found in small quantities in the Delaware, Schuylkill and Monongahela rivers, Goddard said.

None of the substance was found in Philadelphia's water system, he said.

A trace amount of DDT-type compounds was found in the Springhill Water Co. system in Point Marion, Fayette County, and in the Lehigh River near Easton, Goddard said.

Less than 0.07 parts per billion DDT were found in the Waynesburg water system.

The levels in both places were below the 0.05 parts per million limit recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Goddard said.

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