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PCBs Found In Clear Creek

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — A spillage of harmful chemicals known as PCBs has been discovered in Clear Creek, downstream from the Bloomington South sewage treatment plant, state health officials said Friday.

PCBs—polychlorinated biphenyls—can be absorbed in living organisms, so the State Board of Health recommended that nobody eat more than one meal per week of fish taken from Clear Creek or Salt Creek downstream from the junction with Clear Creek and on downstream to Oolitic.

Monroe Reservoir, upstream, was unaffected by the spillage, Ralph C. Pickard, assistant commissioner for environmental health, said.

Efforts are under way to identify the source or sources of the chemicals, he said.

"Investigators from our agency and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have surveyed the area and discovered that PCBs are being discharged to Clear Creek from the sewage plant," Pickard said.

The 1976 legislature passed a law against manufacture, use and sale of PCBs and related chemicals, except for very limited uses that do not let them enter the natural environment. That law becomes effective in 1977.

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