

OUR APPROACH

The City of Alexandria implements the Total Daily Maximum Loads through a multi-pronged approach.

- 1 Special Use Permits (SUPs) for new developments require screening for PCBs as part of the site characterization.
- 2 Municipal properties are assessed for sources of PCBs. Stormwater runoff is evaluated from properties that have a high risk of PCB contamination.
- 3 Construction sites are monitored and inspected for erosion and sedimentation control.
- 4 Dry weather outfall screenings are performed annually for sources of illicit discharges.

MORE INFORMATION:

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

deq.virginia.gov



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POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS

Total Maximum Daily Loads
for the Potomac River

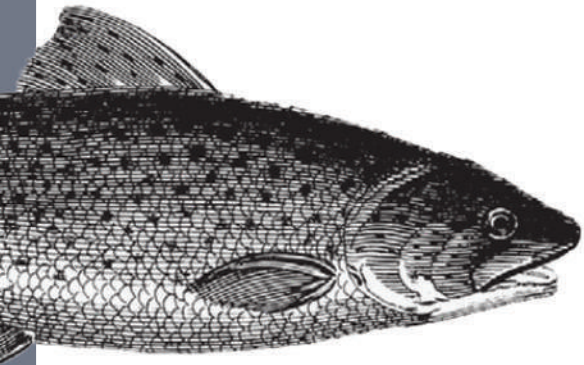
WHERE ARE PCBs FOUND?

Before they were banned in 1979, PCBs entered the environment through their manufacture and use.

Although they are no longer produced in the United States, PCBs may still be present in products and materials produced before 1979.

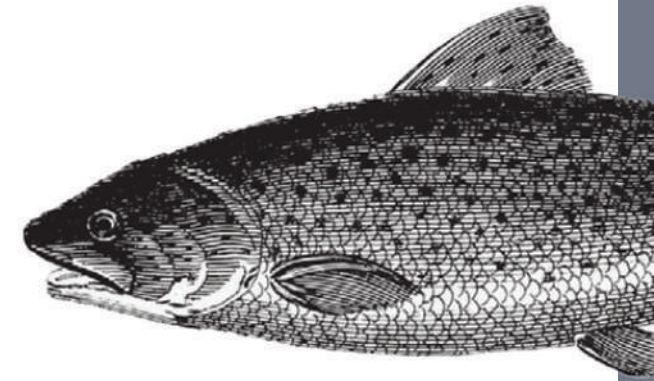
PCBs can be released into the environment from poorly maintained hazardous waste sites, illegal or improper dumping of PCB wastes, leaks or releases from electrical transformers and disposal of PCBs containing consumer products into landfills not designed to handle hazardous waste.

PCBs may also be released into the environment by burning some waste in incinerators.



POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS FAST FACTS

- 1 PCBs are a part of a family of man-made organic chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbons.
- 2 PCBs were manufactured in the United States from 1929 until 1979, when they were banned.
- 3 PCBs are non-flammable, chemically stable, have a high boiling point and electrical insulating properties.
- 4 PCBs were used in many industrial and commercial applications.
- 5 PCBs were used as lubricants and coolants.
- 6 PCBs were used in electrical and hydraulic equipment.
- 7 PCBs were used as plasticizers in paints, plastics and rubber products.
- 8 PCBs were used in pigments, dyes and carbonless copy paper.



HOW ARE PCBs HARMFUL?

Once in the environment, PCBs do not break down quickly.

They may remain for long periods of time in the air, water and soil. In surface waters, PCBs adhere to particles in sediments. They can remain buried in sediments for a long time and be slowly released into the water, then evaporate into air.

PCBs can accumulate in leaves and above-ground parts of plants and food crops. They also accumulate in the bodies of small organisms and fish, potentially passing to people who eat those fish.

PCBs have been known to cause cancer, and have other adverse health effects on the immune system, reproductive system, nervous system and endocrine system.