



## FORMER BURLINGTON INDUSTRIES SITE

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) is conducting soil and sediment sampling in your community. We have found contamination that is very likely the result of historical practices of waste removal from industrial processes prior to the existence of environmental regulations. This DHEC investigation is attempting to determine who may have been responsible for the contamination as well as the best way to address it and develop a clean-up plan.

We have the results of a first round of sampling and are in the process of collecting additional samples so that we can better understand the locations affected. Preliminary data has found elevated concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as well as some pesticides that are above the EPA's Residential Regional Screening Levels between Pecan Drive and the former Burlington Industries facility. We use screening values to determine if or where additional evaluation is needed.

When we are investigating areas of historical environmental contamination, we make recommendations to citizens about things that you can do to prevent potential future exposure(s). As a precautionary measure, **if you live along the side of Pecan Drive or Robinhood Drive that backs up to the ditch**, DHEC recommends the following safeguards for your family:

- Do not walk in the drainage ditch behind the houses on Pecan Drive and the houses on Robinhood Drive or let children or pets play in back yards near the drainage ditch.
- Wash your hands before eating or sleeping, or caring for children.
- Wash your hands after playing or working in the yard.
- Don't let children eat dirt.
- Limit the amount of dust entering your home by using a doormat to wipe feet before entering.
- When mowing the lawn, avoid running the mower over patches of dirt – or, alternatively, wet down dirt areas prior to mowing. Avoid mowing the area next to the drainage ditch.

DHEC is still in the investigation phase and will be conducting additional sampling in your area the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Additional information will be shared with you as we continue our investigation. Once we have the results of this next round of sampling, a community meeting will be scheduled to discuss the results as well as the next steps. If your yard has been sampled or is sampled in the future, you will receive the results as soon as they are available.

## **Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Information Sheet**

### **What are PCB's?**

PCB stands for polychlorinated biphenyls. This is not one chemical, but a class made up of 209 chemicals. They have a range of toxicity and vary in consistency from thin, light-colored liquids to yellow or black waxy solids. PCBs have no known taste or smell. PCBs were used in manufacturing processes from 1929 until they were banned in 1979.

### **How were PCBs used?**

Historically, PCBs were used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors and other electrical equipment because they are good insulators and don't burn. PCBs were also historically used as fluids in old florescent lighting fixtures and electrical transformers, as well as in products like cutting oils, hydraulic oils, and carbonless copy paper.

In 1979, the United States banned the manufacture of PCBs because they were found to be harmful to people and the environment. However, once PCBs are in the environment, they do not break down easily and may remain where they were released for very long periods of time.

### **Where are PCBs found today?**

Because PCBs were used for so long prior to being regulated, low levels are found throughout the environment; typically in soils and in sediments in streams, rivers or ponds. They are sometimes found at higher levels in areas where they were disposed of prior to environmental regulations or where they have been illegally dumped.

### **How can PCBs harm me and my family?**

In this situation of historical contamination, PCBs are primarily a hazard through skin contact. The precautions found on the other side of this page are ways you can reduce your potential for exposure to these chemicals. The most common health effects from exposure to PCBs is from workplace exposure (mostly historical) to the liquid oils through contact with the skin. PCBs are associated with skin rashes and a specific type of acne. Workplace exposures have also been associated with changes in blood and urine that may indicate liver damage. **PCB exposures in the general population are not likely to result in skin and liver effects.**

### **Where can I find more information about PCBs?**

For additional information about PCBs, potential health effects, clean-up and disposal of waste, please visit the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's website at [www.epa.gov/PCBs](http://www.epa.gov/PCBs).

If you would like additional information about the hazards of PCB's, please refer to the full ToxFAQ sheet produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry located: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts17.pdf>