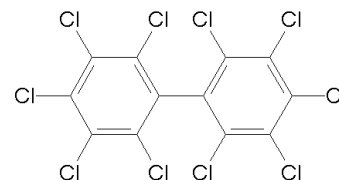


Berkshire Community College

Annual Notice Regarding the Presence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

What are PCBs?

- PCBs are a group of man-made chemicals: **P**olychlorinated **B**iphenyls.
- PCBs are often found in transformer oil.
- PCBs are sometimes found in caulk from the 1940s to 1970s (they were used to enhance plasticity & durability).



Why are PCBs at BCC?

- Caulking used to seal expansion joints on the exterior of most of the campus buildings, and to seal around window and exterior door frames, contained PCBs when it was originally manufactured. Affected buildings include Melville Hall, Hawthorne Hall, Field Administration Building, Susan B. Anthony Center, Paterson Field House, Koussevitsky Arts Center, and Jonathan Edwards Library.

What are Potential Health Concerns Related to PCBs?

- Possible cancer risk with long-term exposure.
- Other health issues with short-term exposure at higher levels, including to immune, reproductive, neurological, and endocrine systems, and liver.

What is BCC Doing to Manage the PCBs?

- Remedial efforts undertaken by BCC in the last 10 years have removed most original PCB-containing caulking materials. This work was undertaken in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).
- PCBs from the caulking have contaminated the concrete or concrete block walls adjacent to exterior joints and window frames at low levels. These remaining PCB-containing materials have been coated with epoxy or other surface coatings, and/or covered with physical barriers such as metal flashing or drywall, to act as a barrier between building occupants and the PCB-containing materials. BCC performs routine inspections of these barrier materials.
- BCC performs routine sampling of indoor air and the surfaces of PCB-containing materials. The results to date have indicated non-detectable or very low concentrations, below levels of concern developed by the US EPA.
- Results of routine inspections and sampling are communicated to US EPA, along with any plans to manage remaining PCB-containing materials that may be disturbed by planned renovations.

Where are Residual PCBs Located?

- Most of the original PCB-containing caulking has been removed. The original window and door frame caulking at Koussevitsky Arts Center and Jonathan Edwards Library has not yet been removed, but has been covered over by new caulking (exterior) or metal flashing strips (interior) to prevent

people from coming into contact with these caulking materials. BCC will be removing these original caulking materials when the windows/doors at these buildings are replaced.

- In exterior building materials, PCBs remain at generally low levels in the concrete or concrete block walls within 12 inches of the joints in the building facades, the perimeter of windows and exterior doors, and the perimeter of vents in walls (underneath covers). These areas of PCB-containing building materials have been coated or covered with physical barriers.
- In interior building materials, PCBs remain at generally low levels in the building materials within 12 inches of the perimeter of windows and exterior doors. These areas of PCB-containing building materials have been coated or covered with physical barriers at Hawthorne Hall and Melville Hall.

What Do I Need to Do?

- People associated with BCC do not need to do anything to avoid exposure to PCBs during routine building occupancy. However, occupants can help with the following:
 - Report any deterioration in coatings (paint, epoxy coatings) you observe to the BCC PCB Program Manager (contact information below), who will determine if the deteriorated coatings are covering an area of PCB-impacted building material.
 - Avoid damaging building materials, including drywall, concrete block walls, etc. that might occur when hanging pictures or other routine activities.
 - Report any damage of building materials to the BCC PCB Program Manager, who will determine if the damaged materials are a PCB-impacted building material.

Further Resources:

- U.S. EPA:
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs>
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs-building-materials>
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health:
 - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/pcbs-polychlorinated-biphenyls-in-building-materials>

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