




DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
AGENCY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Independent School Headmasters
FROM: Rebecca Holcombe, Ed. D., Secretary of Education 
SUBJECT: Indoor Air Sampling for PCBs in Vermont Schools
DATE: November 8, 2016

Earlier this month, Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts released a report entitled *The ABCs of PCBs*. The report highlights the discovery of PCB contamination in schools around the country, and makes recommendations on how schools and communities can take steps to prevent students and school staff from PCB contamination.

Background – As you might recall, in 2013-2014 the Agency of Education, Department of Health, and Department of Environmental Conservation partnered to evaluate a small number of Vermont schools to try and determine if the PCB problem exists here in our state. Testing showed that while PCBs were detected in indoor air at two schools, the results were not high enough to warrant further action. The levels of PCBs that were detected are not expected to contribute very much to an individual's overall exposure.

Based on this effort, the Agency and Departments agreed further testing was not warranted. However, we did develop a summary letter that contained general information about PCBs, and recommendations for schools to follow in trying to determine whether the school should be tested for PCBs.

Given Senator Markey's recent report, we are re-sending the 2014 summary letter of indoor air sampling results (attached).

If you have questions – about the 2013-2014 project, or sampling indoor air for PCBs, contact Marc Roy (DEC) at marc.roy@vermont.gov or 802-522-0275. If you have questions about the health risks of PCBs, contact Sarah Vose, PhD (Health) at sarah.vose@vermont.gov or 800-439-8550.

Link – to Senator Markey's report: <http://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016-10-05-Markey-PCB-Report-ABCsofPCBs.pdf>