

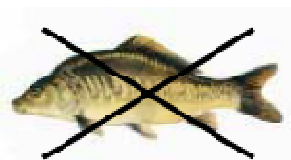
**The North Carolina Division of Public Health has Issued Fish Advisories for Brier Creek, Little Brier Creek, Brier Creek Reservoir, Lake Crabtree, Crabtree Creek, and the Neuse River from just below Crabtree Creek to Auburn-Knightdale Road<sup>1</sup>**

NO fish consumption is allowed from Little Brier Creek, Brier Creek or Brier Creek Reservoir



Do not eat any fish.  
Fish from these waters are not safe to eat.  
High levels of chemicals (PCBs) have been found in the fish.  
Swimming, boating, and other recreational activities present no health risks and are not affected by this advisory

Fish consumption is limited in waterways downstream of Brier Creek Reservoir



**Carp**



**Catfish**

- No Carp or Catfish consumption is allowed from Lake Crabtree; all other fish consumption should be limited to no more than one meal per month
- Limit consumption of Carp and Catfish from Crabtree Creek, Walnut Creek, Rocky Branch or the Neuse River to no more than one meal per month
- Limit largemouth bass from Crabtree Creek to no more than one meal per month

#### **Health Effects of PCBs**

Consumption of fish beyond what is recommended may increase a person's risk of developing cancer, infection, skin problems such as cracked fingernails and may cause learning deficits in infants from maternal exposure.

#### **Sources of PCBs**

Discovery of the PCB fish contamination is connected to an investigation of the Ward Transformer facility located on Mount Herman Road near RDU. The process that the company used from 1964 to 1979 allowed PCBs to escape into the environment. Because of that past contamination, the site is on the National Priority List for investigation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Individuals with questions regarding these fish advisories can contact Dr. Luanne Williams with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services at 919-715-6429. Individuals with questions regarding the environmental investigation can contact Ms. Jeanette Stanley with the North Carolina Superfund Section at 919-733-2801, extension 318.

<sup>1</sup> U.S Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response. *This is Superfund: A Citizen's Guide to EPA's Superfund Program*. Washington D.C.

<sup>2</sup> N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Epidemiology Section. *Current Fish Consumption Advice and Advisories in North Carolina*. 11 Feb 2009. Available from: <http://www.rabies.ncdhhs.gov/epi/fish/current.html> 20 Feb 2009.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Exposure Investigation Report: PCB Fish Tissue Sampling in the Lower Neuse River, Walnut Creek, and Rocky Branch; Raleigh, N.C.* 29 Sept 2008.



*The Superfund Program cleans up [these] sites to protect people and the environment,  
and to return the land to productive use...*

*Protecting communities and the environment is what Superfund is all about.<sup>1</sup>*

The Neuse RIVERKEEPER® Foundation applauds the work of the local governments, agencies and communities that have worked to gain a constructive solution to PCB contamination for the Neuse and its tributaries, but **we must have continued community involvement in cleaning up the pollution associated with the Ward Transformer Superfund Site (“Site”) if we want a positive and healthy outcome.**

The State of North Carolina issued the first Fish Consumption Advisory related to PCB contamination from the Site in 2003. Since that time five (5) additional advisories have been issued, each for an area further downstream than the last.<sup>2</sup> As of September 2008, PCB contamination has been found in fish tissue *in the Neuse River*, at a location over 30 miles downstream from the Ward Transformer site.<sup>3</sup> **Unless something is done to change the current situation, restrictions on the safe use of local waterways will continue to expand** as contamination from this Site moves farther downstream.

It is well settled that contamination at the Site warrants active removal and remediation of the soil and sediment which are unsafe for human exposure. Now there is evidence that these same toxins are moving through the waterways of Morrisville, Cary, and Raleigh but the extent of their reach is unclear. To protect our families and communities from the contamination in our water and fish we must first understand the extent of the pollution and how it came to be there.

The proper protection of our families and waterways will require a more rigorous sampling, investigation and clean-up regimen than is currently approved; **please let the EPA and NC DENR know that you are concerned about the recent Record of Decision and believe that the following items need to be addressed in an expedient manner.**

- Additional sampling must be done to determine the location and extent of PCB laden sediment “hot spots” within and downstream of the Site’s Operational Unit 1 (“OU1”). Sampling results should be released to the public and appropriate actions should be taken to address the findings.
- “Hot spots” must be proactively remediated through soil/sediment removal. If this does not happen, every storm event will spread PCB contamination further from the source.
- The lead agencies must provide an explanation of how clean up actions will address the contamination in fish tissue found downstream of the Site, as far as the Neuse River at Auburn-Knightdale Road.
- Accurate, detailed and current information should be available through the online *Superfund Site Progress Profile*

#### Government Contacts

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