

# Atlantic Canada's PCB Destruction Program



## **The Problem**

There are 5,700 tonnes of PCB wastes in storage, and another 2,300 tonnes of PCB oil in electrical equipment still in use, in the Atlantic Region.

Although the PCB wastes are stored in accordance with stringent provincial and federal regulations, storage provides only a short term solution to PCB management in Atlantic Canada. The risk of release of PCBs into the environment through both spills and fires still remains.

The destruction of PCB wastes is the only management option that provides a permanent solution. High temperature incineration is an effective and safe destruction technology. And, with the legislated ban on PCB waste exports as of 1990, the destruction of Canadian PCBs must be carried out within our borders.

## **The Solution**

Environment Canada is addressing the PCB disposal problem in Canada through the Federal PCB Destruction

Program. As part of this national program, on August 22, 1990, the federal government and the four Atlantic provincial governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to collectively implement a cooperative project to site a mobile PCB incinerator in Atlantic Canada. A mobile unit is particularly suited to this project as it can be readily transported, set up at a site, operated for a finite time period, dismantled and then moved out.

## **The Program**

A mobile incinerator will be temporarily located at one site somewhere in the region to destroy Atlantic Canada's PCB wastes. The program will be conducted in full compliance with federal and provincial assessment requirements. The incinerator will meet all applicable federal and provincial regulations and it will be capable of destroying PCBs at a destruction and removal efficiency of 99.9999%.

A site for the mobile incinerator will be selected through a full and open public consultation process. The site will be

evaluated against stringent siting criteria before finally being selected.

The mobile incinerator will be transported into the region, set up at the temporary site, and remain on site long enough to destroy the region's PCB waste.

PCB waste will be transported to the incineration site in full compliance with requirements specified in the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

After project completion, the incinerator will be transported out of the region and the site will be returned to its original state.

**Further information can be obtained from:**

Environment Canada  
Conservation and Protection  
Environmental Protection  
Atlantic Region  
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45 Alderney Drive  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
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