



The Federal PCB Destruction Program



The federal government is working to address the PCB issue in Canada through the Federal PCB Destruction Program, which was announced in September 1988. Concurrently, federal, provincial and territorial cooperative efforts have been formalized through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's (CCME) PCB Action Plan. As of October, 1989, the CCME plan includes:

- taking measures to phase out in-use PCBs in sensitive locations such as schools and hospitals,
- decontaminating low-level PCB-contaminated mineral oil; and
- continuing efforts to site permanent and mobile/portable incinerators to destroy PCBs across Canada.

The Ministers have also agreed to:

- increase emphasis on PCB destruction options rather than on long-term storage;

- support the destruction of Canada's PCBs within Canada to the maximum extent possible; and
- open and ongoing consultation with community and stakeholder groups, as an essential pre-requisite to the successful siting of PCB destruction facilities in Canada.

Significant progress has been made by the federal government to meet the goals identified by CCME. This includes:

- participating in the development of a comprehensive national inventory of all PCBs in use and in storage in Canada;
- implementing stringent new national PCB storage requirements and comprehensive PCB transport regulations;
- announcing stringent federal regulations under the Canadian Environment Protection Act respecting the operation of mobile PCB incinerators and treatment systems at federal facilities;

- decontaminating more than 110 tonnes of federal waste PCB-contaminated mineral oil (which is equal to 93 percent of total federal waste oil in storage in 1988) using chemical treatment methods;
- incinerating approximately 47 percent by weight of the federal government's inventory of PCB wastes at Goose Bay, Labrador. That project was completed in August 1990; and
- signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the four Atlantic Provinces to site a transportable PCB destruction facility in that region.

The Federal PCB Destruction Program will assist in making mobile PCB destruction facilities available, on a cost recovery basis, to any region of Canada that has sufficient volumes of PCB wastes (whether privately or publicly owned) and requires federal assistance. In addition, federal lands may be made available to site such PCB destruction facilities.

Recognizing public resistance to siting waste disposal facilities, the federal government is committed to a consultation process to respond to community needs for timely and accurate information about PCB management and destruction options. This process is based on full and open consultation with concerned communities and stakeholder groups in implementing the Federal PCB Destruction Program.

This factsheet is part of the Office of Waste Management's "Rainbow Series". Each colour in the rainbow represents one waste management activity as follows:

- 1) Pink - Classification
- 2) Orange - 4Rs (Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, Recovery)
- 3) Yellow - Transportation
- 4) Light Green - Storage
- 5) Dark Green - Treatment
- 6) Blue - Disposal
- 7) Purple - Waste Types

Further information can be obtained from:

Office of Waste Management
 Conservation and Protection
 Environment Canada
 Ottawa, Ontario
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or

Enquiry Centre
 Environment Canada
 (819) 997-2800

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