



PCB testing at Green Mountain Union High School

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June 7, 2023

What are PCBs?

PCBs = polychlorinated biphenyls

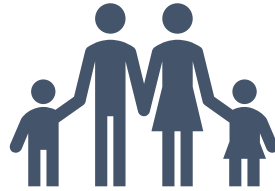
- PCBs are manmade chemicals used in building materials

PCBs were banned by EPA in 1979

- PCBs do not break down quickly in the environment

Vermont law requires all schools built before 1980 to be tested for PCBs in indoor air

PCBs can affect our health in many ways



Cancer

Vermont Action Levels

The Vermont Immediate Action Levels (IALs) are:

- 300 ng/m³ for 7th grade through adult

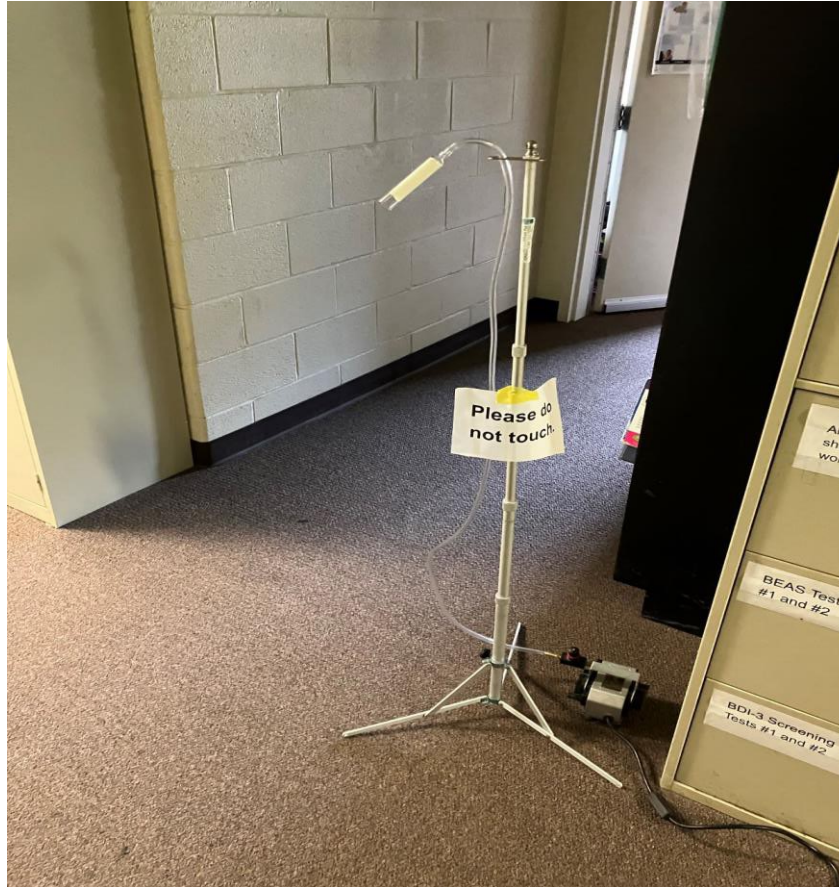
The Vermont School Action Levels (SALs) are:

- 100 ng/m³ for 7th grade through adult

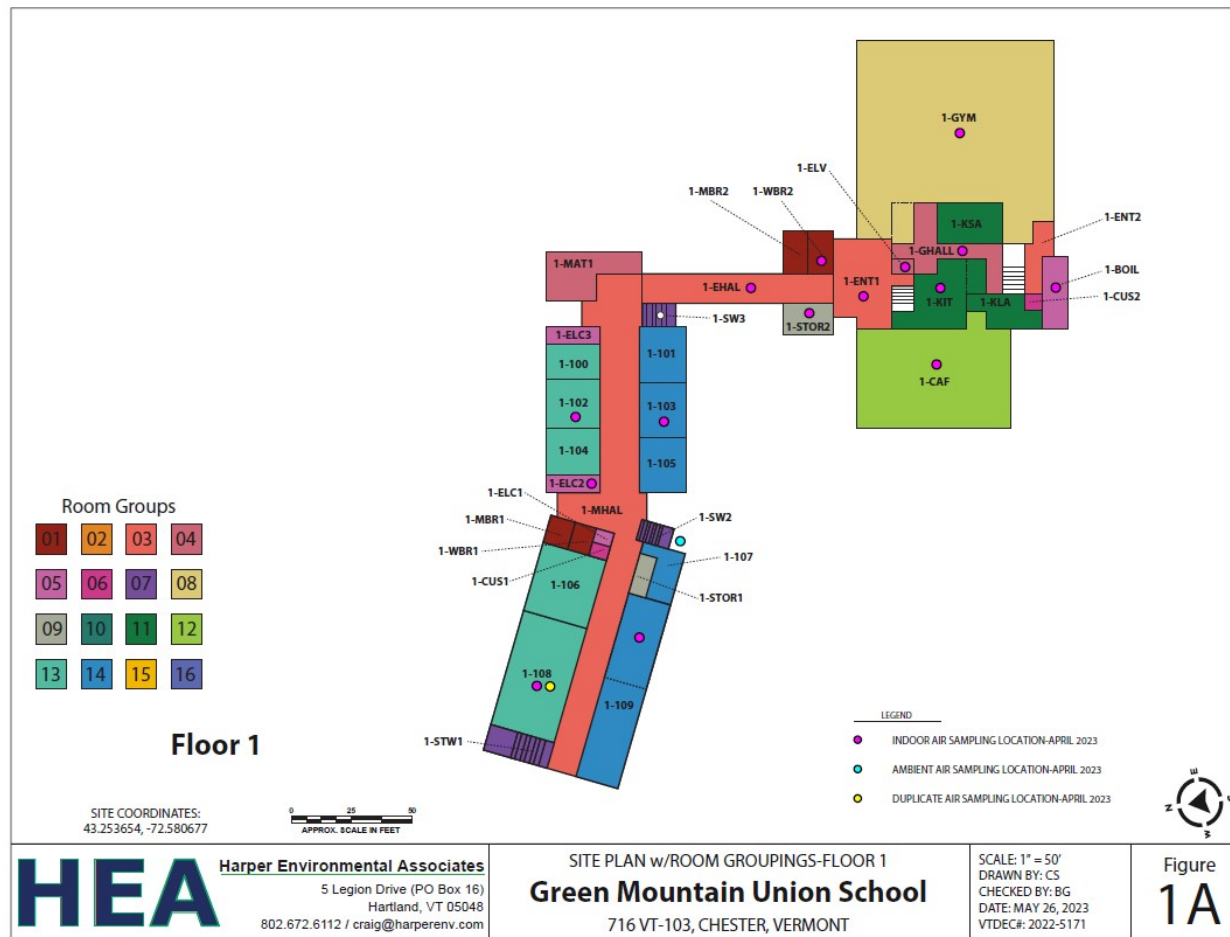
Vermont framework starts with building materials inventory and grouping process

- Environmental consultant conducts school inventory
- Include like spaces into groups
 - Spaces comprised of like potentially PCB containing materials grouped together
 - Spaces comprised of similar heating and cooling systems
 - Spaces of similar construction and renovations
- 30% of all rooms in a group will be tested
- Grouping rooms together based on similar building materials allows us to:
 - Extrapolate data from tested rooms to untested rooms
 - Provide schools with several occupancy options to balance keeping kids in schools with a healthy learning environment

Picture of Indoor Air Sampler for PCBs



GMUHS Grouping

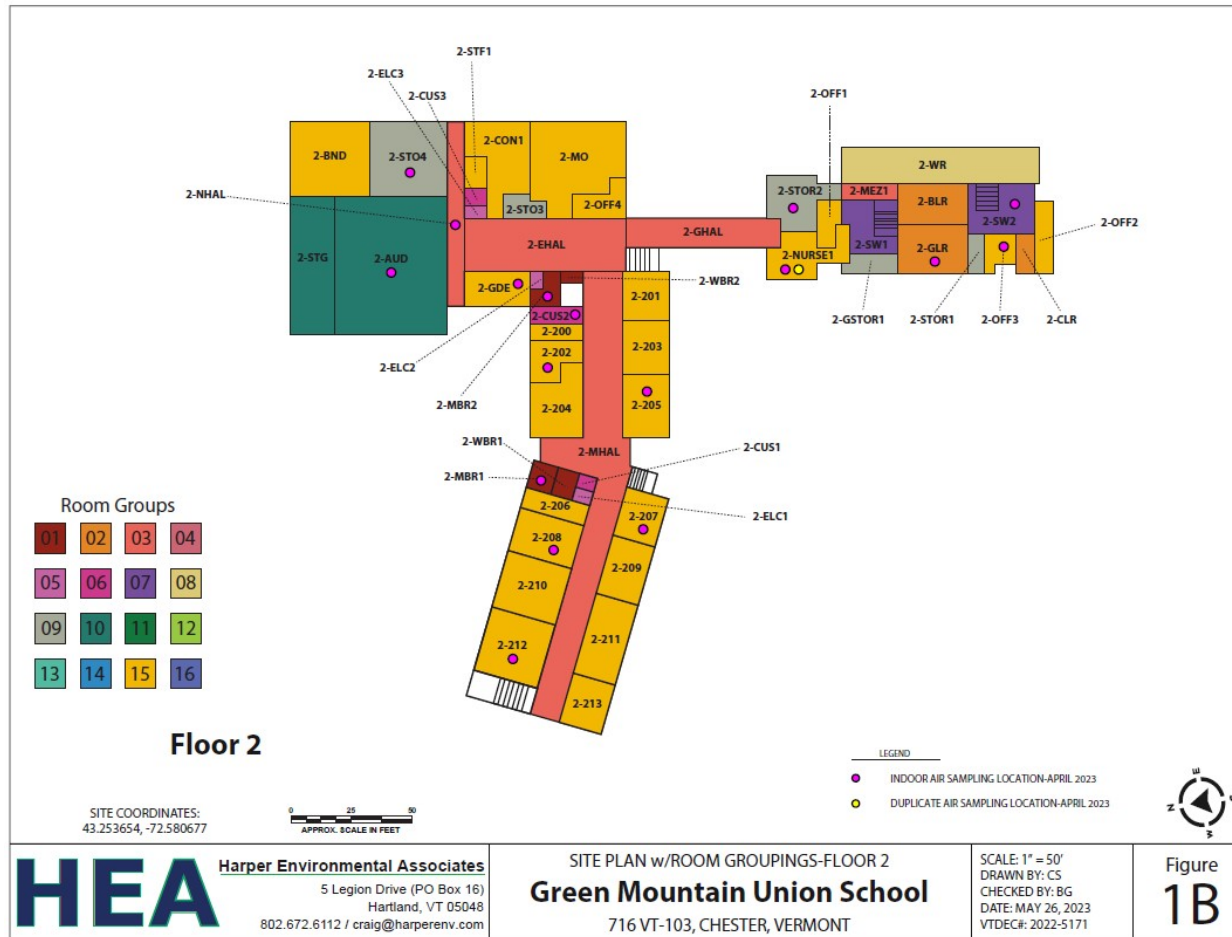


Results from Indoor Air Sampling

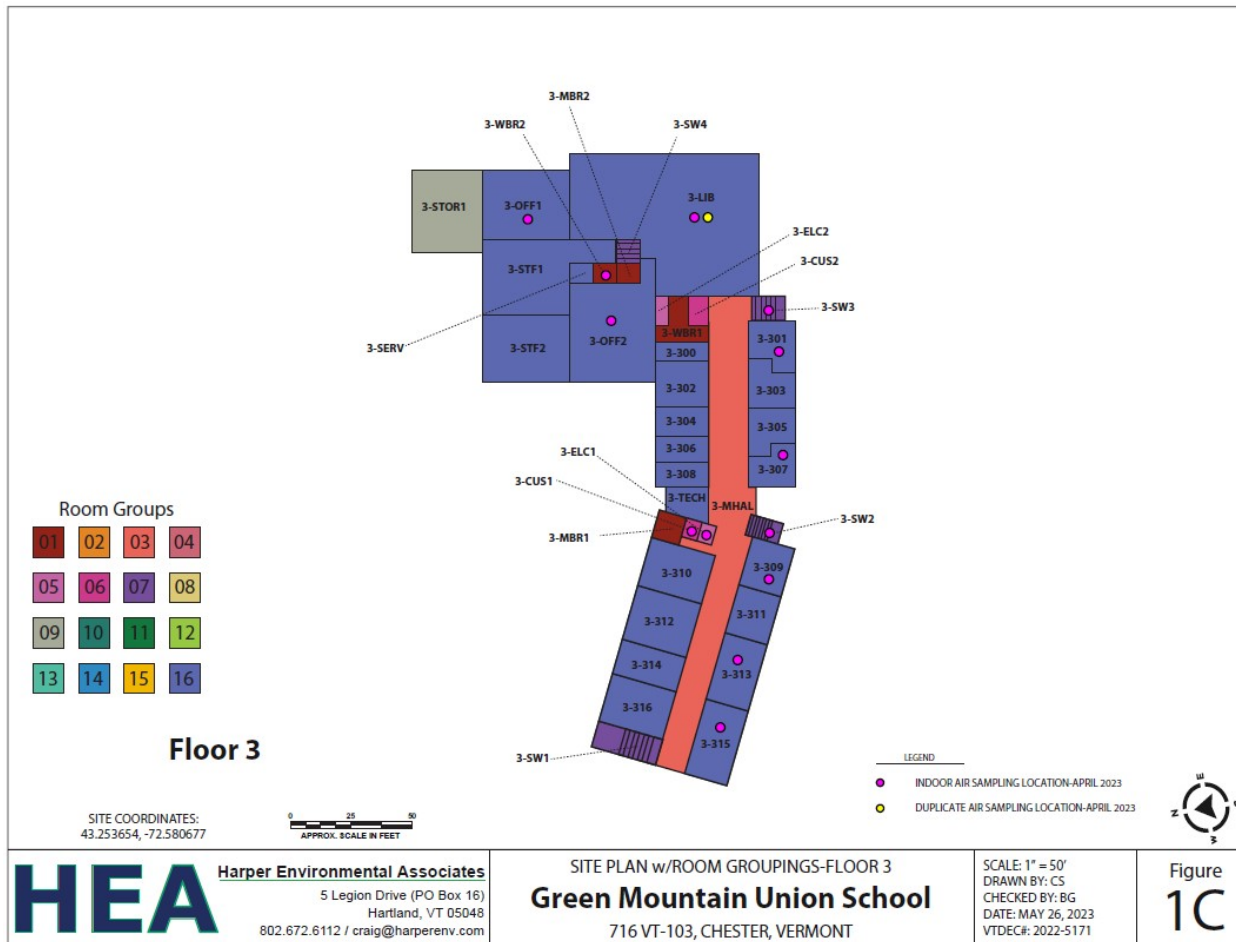
Detections of PCBs:

- Floor 1
 - Range(320 - 4 ng/m³)
 - Number of spaces sampled (15)
 - Average concentration detected (148 ng/m³)
- Floor 2
 - Range (280 - 77 ng/m³)
 - Number of spaces sampled (17)
 - Average concentration detected (143 ng/m³)
- Floor 3
 - Range (600 - 170 ng/m³)
 - Number of spaces sampled (13)
 - Average concentration detected (323 ng/m³)

GMUHS Grouping



GMUHS Grouping



[Next Steps]

Current School Year

We will not make changes for the rest of the school year. **This decision is supported by the Health Department, DEC, and AOE.**

Summer

During the summer we will change our use of spaces on the first and third floors to reduce exposure to students and staff.

Next School Year (2023-2024)

We will reassess our use of spaces in the school for the 2023 - 2024 school year later this summer. We hope to have additional data to help understand how to best reduce PCB exposures in our school and we will update you when we have more information.

[Next Steps]

- **Hired an environmental consultant** to identify sources of PCBs in the school and address those sources to lower the levels of PCBs in indoor air.
- **We are working with the state agencies** as we develop a plan to address impacted rooms. As soon as we have that plan finalized we will share it with the school community.

Questions?

- Find **more information about PCBs**, including the complete test results, at dec.vermont.gov/pcb-schools.
- For **testing and test results questions**, email SOV.PCBSampling@vermont.gov.
- For **health-related questions**, email AHS.VDHPCBSchoolSampling@vermont.gov.