PCB Testing at Green Mountain Union High School - Updates

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June 19, 2025

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
AGENCY OF EDUCATION
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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 public and approved independent schools built before 1980 to be tested for PCBs in indoor air

PCBs can affect our health in many ways

Cancer	Noncancer
• Breast • Liver • Melanoma	• Immune • Reproductive • Nervous • Endocrine

School Action Levels

The Vermont School Action Levels (SALs) are:

- 30 nanograms per cubic meter (ng/m^3) for PreK
- 60 ng/m^3 for Kindergarten - 6^{th} grade
- **100 ng/m^3 for 7^{th} grade through adult**

The Vermont Immediate Action Levels (IALs) are:

- 90 nanograms per cubic meter (ng/m^3) for PreK
- 180 ng/m^3 for Kindergarten - 6^{th} grade
- **300 ng/m^3 for 7^{th} grade through adult**

Results from Indoor Air Sampling

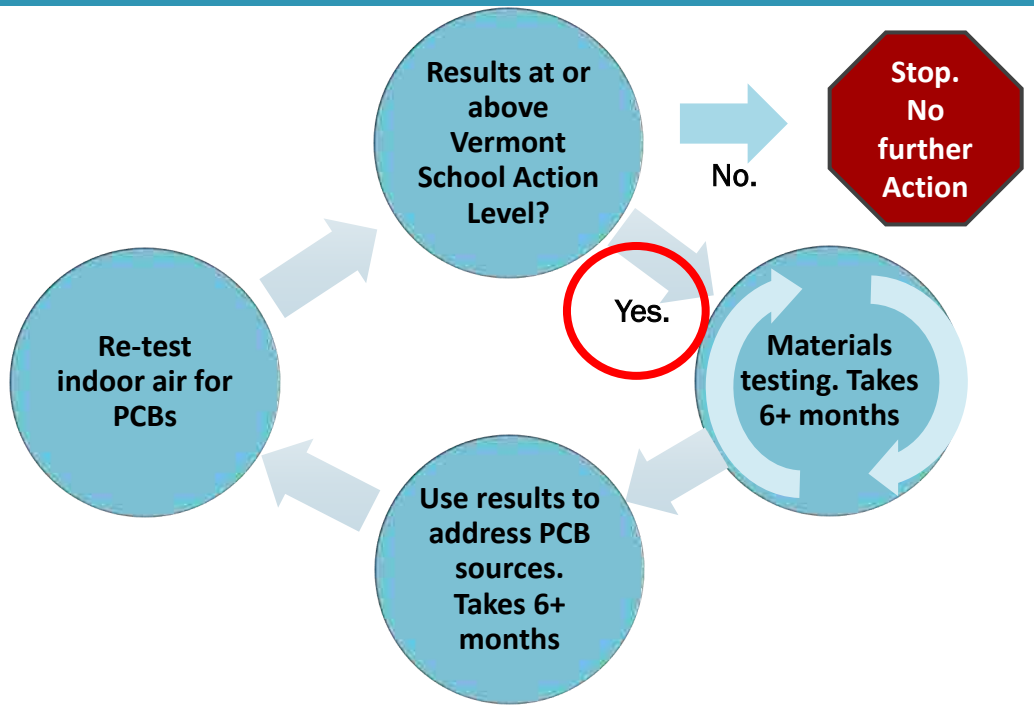
Detections of PCBs:

- Floor 1
  - Range(4 - 320 ng/m^3)
  - Number of spaces sampled (15)

- Floor 2
  - Range (77 - 280 ng/m^3)
  - Number of spaces sampled (17)

- Floor 3
  - Range (170 - 600 ng/m^3)
  - Number of spaces sampled (13)

Timeline of Material Sampling



Materials testing is collecting building materials to be tested for PCBs. This can be an iterative process.

Work can occur on school breaks, weekends and other times when school is not in session.

Your hired consultant will conduct work under state direction and approval.

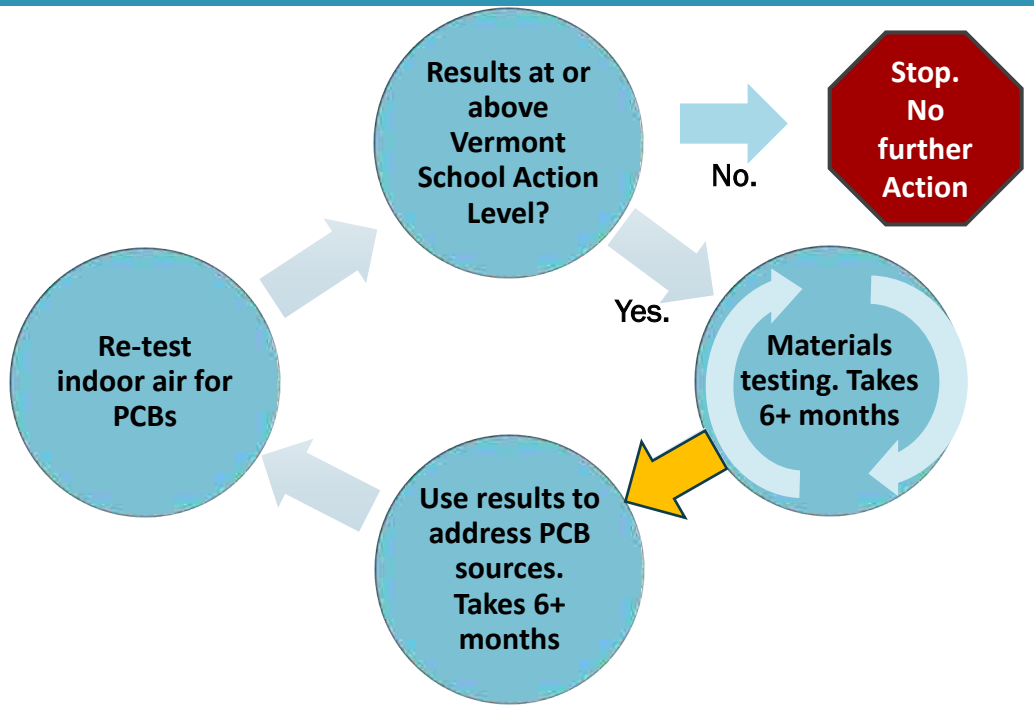
Building Materials Investigation

- JTC (the environmental consultant) has completed 3 site investigation efforts to evaluate suspect materials:
  - Caulk around door frames and windows, and expansion joints (2.2 mg/kg – 460,000 mg/kg).
  - Mastic under carpets and floor tiles (4.7 mg/kg - 2200 mg/kg).
  - Wall paint (4.8 mg/kg – 99 mg/kg).

Photo No.1	Date: 2/18/2025

Description: Sample 5171-1-CAF-EJC1-A

Timeline of Material Sampling



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Evaluation of Corrective Action Alternatives (ECAA)

The ECAA is a planning document that provides an analysis of different cleanup options to help choose the best option.

Considerations include:

- Overall protection of human health and the environment
- Long-term and short-term effectiveness
- Cost
- Community acceptance
- Feasibility

ECAA and Green Mountain Union High School

- Original Windows
  - Caulk between windows and adjacent walls
  - Brick or concrete masonry units (CMUs) in contact with the PCB –containing caulk
  - Weathered exterior caulk has impacted surface soil within the drip line
  - Found throughout the school
- Expansion Joints
  - Caulk found within interior and exterior facing expansion joints, primarily in larger spaces like the gym and cafeteria
- Flooring and Carpeting
  - Mastic (glue) beneath most 9”x9” floor tile, some 12”x12” floor tile, and original carpeting.
  - 12”x”12” flooring is found widely throughout the school, 9”x9” tiles and original carpeting are in select areas
- Wall and Door Frame Paint
  - Though lower in concentration, this material could act as a secondary source
  - Large areas are painted and are found throughout the school

ECAA and Green Mountain Union High School

The environmental consultant is working on a detailed analysis of different ways these impacted materials could be addressed:

- Removal of source material
  - Window caulk, expansion joint caulk, mastic
- Limited or substantial removal of adjacent impacted materials
  - Brick, CMU
- Encapsulation of material to remain in place
  - Brick, CMU, paint
- Long term monitoring and maintenance

ECAA and Green Mountain Union High School

We will work closely with TRSU to select and implement the best option for this school. Specific planning considerations include:

- 6th graders coming to GMUHS beginning in the 2026-2027 school year,
- Specific areas or material types that should be targeted to accommodate a younger age group,
- Prioritization of most impacted materials or areas,
- Phasing of work to retain functional space, and
- Coordination of PCB work with other planned work at the school.

Please be on the lookout for a future meeting to discuss and receive community feedback on the ECAA.

Corrective Action Plan and Implementation

Once the ECAA has been reviewed and a cleanup option selected, the consultant will prepare the detailed remediation plan called a Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

- It is TRSU's decision of which cleanup option to move forward with.
- Depending on the selected cleanup, DEC may not be able to fully fund the cleanup but will be able to contribute a portion of the overall cost.

Funding Status

- DEC anticipates receiving $9.5 million to use for PCB cleanup and planning in fiscal year 2026 (July 2025-June 2026)
  - We are working with schools now to ensure grant paperwork is in place to use this funding.
- Funding will be shared among 6 schools
- At this time, we do not know if or how much funding will be available in future State budgets

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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.