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## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

For Release: IMMEDIATE  
Date: July 15, 2005

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# Warning Issues on Eating Carp and Catfish from Crabtree Creek

RALEIGH – Laboratory tests on carp and catfish from the upper portion of Crabtree Creek show high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in those fish, pollutants that can cause health problems in people who eat the fish. Public health officials have issued an advisory warning people to eat no more than one meal a month of carp or catfish from the creek.

Swimming and other recreational activities present no health risks from PCBs and are not affected by this advisory.

Exposure to PCBs may increase people's risk of developing cancer, infections, and skin problems. The babies of pregnant or nursing women who eat these fish may experience learning deficiencies.

The North Carolina Division of Public Health will be posting warning signs along the creek.

Last year, an advisory was issued warning people not to eat any carp and catfish from Lake Crabtree because of high levels of PCBs in those fish. That advisory still stands.

PCBs were once widely used in electrical transformers as coolants and lubricants. Although they have not been manufactured in the United States since 1977, PCBs can still be found in many old transformers. The Crabtree Creek contamination was discovered as a result of an investigation of the Ward Transformer facility, which is located on Mount Herman Road near Raleigh-Durham International Airport. The practices that the company used from 1964 to 1979 allowed PCBs to escape into the environment. Because of that past contamination, the site was placed on the National Priority List for remediation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) federal Superfund program. Ward Transformer currently reconditions only non-PCB transformers, and the company's current process is in compliance with current environmental regulations.

North Carolina environmental officials routinely monitor water and fish from North Carolina for environmental contaminants. Public Health officials issue fish consumption advisories based on those findings. Information on this and other fish consumption advisories is available on the Internet at [www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/fish/](http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/fish/).

People with questions regarding these fish advisories can contact Dr. Luanne Williams with the N.C. Division of Public Health at 919-733-3410. Those with questions about the environmental investigation can contact Ms. Laura Niles with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, at 404-562-8353 or toll-free at 1-800-241-1754..

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