

PCBs triple in Hudson River fish; Jorling names GE as likely source

■ The contamination is the highest since the early 1980s

BY PETER WEHRWEIN
Staff writer

ALBANY — The PCB concentrations in upper Hudson River fish suddenly tripled last year, providing strong indication that the chemical continues to leak into the river from the former General Electric plant in Hudson Falls, according to the state's top environmental official.

The higher PCB level — combined with an increase in PCB concentrations in the river's water in 1991 — "strongly indicates" that PCBs are entering the river from the

Hudson Falls plant, Environmental Conservation Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling said in a prepared statement released Monday.

The 1992 contamination levels in the nine species tested by EnCon are the highest seen since the early 1980s, and well above the two-parts-per-million level considered safe for eating.

The fish were caught near Thompson Island dam, several miles downstream from the Hudson Falls plant. Tests of river water in 1991 in the same general area showed an extremely high level of PCBs. The water tests have since dropped back to normal levels, however.

The possibility of a fresh leak into the river comes 25 years after GE

stopped dumping PCBs into the river from its electric capacitor plants in Hudson Falls and the adjacent Washington County town of Fort Edward.

Bridget Barclay, environmental director of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, said Monday that EnCon now needs to give "the highest priority" to a cleanup and investigation of the Hudson Falls plant, which is about 50 miles upstream from Albany.

According to Barclay, EnCon has been investigating the Hudson Falls plant site since 1986 and higher PCB levels in the Hudson were reported three years ago. Yet, she said, EnCon "still doesn't have a plan to identify where on the GE plant site the

PCBs in Hudson River fish

EnCon tests of fish caught near Thompson Island dam, approximately five miles from General Electric plants in Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, Washington County, show elevated PCB levels. State health advisories recommend not eating fish with PCB levels above 2 parts per million.

	1991	1992
Brown Bullhead	3.27	10.0
Brook Trout	3.19	9.4
Brook Silverside	3.53	10.48
Chain Pickerel	.58	5.05
Largemouth bass	3.87	22.48
Northern pike	3.19	64.70
Pumpkinseed	4.20	13.84
White Perch	5.21	80.32
Yellow perch	6.87	12.91

Values are parts per million

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contamination is coming from and how it's getting into the river."

In November, when the PCB water levels of 4,539 parts per trillion were reported, EnCon officials expressed

puzzlement and were cautious about citing the Hudson Falls plant as the culprit. Jorling's statement on Monday was a shift, an

Please see PCBs A-

Mob targets murder suspects



Motives questioned

Police try to understand

Last in a series

BY DONNA LIQUORI
and YANCEY ROY
Staff writers

Capital Region police say they're seeing teens who are more violent, involved with more drugs and in need of more help than ever before.

As a result, many police officers are finding themselves in roles in addition to law enforcers, often counseling teens and referring them to other agencies.

Police officers reiterated that giving



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