

Inland Empire Paper Company PCB FACT SHEET

- IEP was a PCB free mill prior to 1991 as confirmed by EPA
- It was only after IEP began to recycle in 1991 that PCB's were discovered in its effluent
- PCB's originate from inks in the recycled paper as a consequence of a Federal regulatory allowance
- Federal regulations through the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) allow imported products to contain PCB's with concentrations up to 50 ppm
- Imported inks and pigments used in the publishing of newspapers and magazines contain trace amounts of PCB's as a byproduct of their manufacturing processes
- This is not just a newsprint issue, as many of these same pigments are used in other industries such as paints and caulking
- The Federal limit (50 ppm) is 20,000,000 times higher than the concentration of PCB's in IEP's effluent
- There are no current technologies available to remove PCB's down to proposed water quality standards
- Elimination of paper recycling may be the only viable option for IEP to meet forthcoming stringent water quality standards
- Elimination of paper recycling in the U.S. does not solve the problem, as the PCB's will continue to exist in landfills or be dispersed to the environment from the stacks of incinerators
- IEP is part of the solution, as our processes result in significant removal of PCB's from the recycled paper
- There is a more obvious and logical solution that eliminates the creation of this source of PCB's into the environment through regulatory change
- Changing the Federal regulations for inks and pigments to "PCB-Free" will force foreign suppliers to use alternative manufacturing methods
- Experts state that there are alternative manufacturing processes to eliminate PCB's from inks
- IEP in collaboration with the Riverkeepers and the Lands Council submitted a letter to EPA requesting a change to the TSCA regulations
- IEP is also working with legislators to take a leadership role in changing this regulation
- Eliminating a "new source" of PCB's that are entering the environment provides a more common-sense alternative versus the elimination of paper recycling