

New York City's plan to remove PCBs from public schools brings a public meeting to Queens

The city recently set aside \$480 million to purge PCBs from schools, and will hold an informational discussion with the community in Jamaica to discuss its plan to remove the toxic chemicals

BY ELI ROSENBERG / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Thursday, June 5, 2014, 2:00 AM

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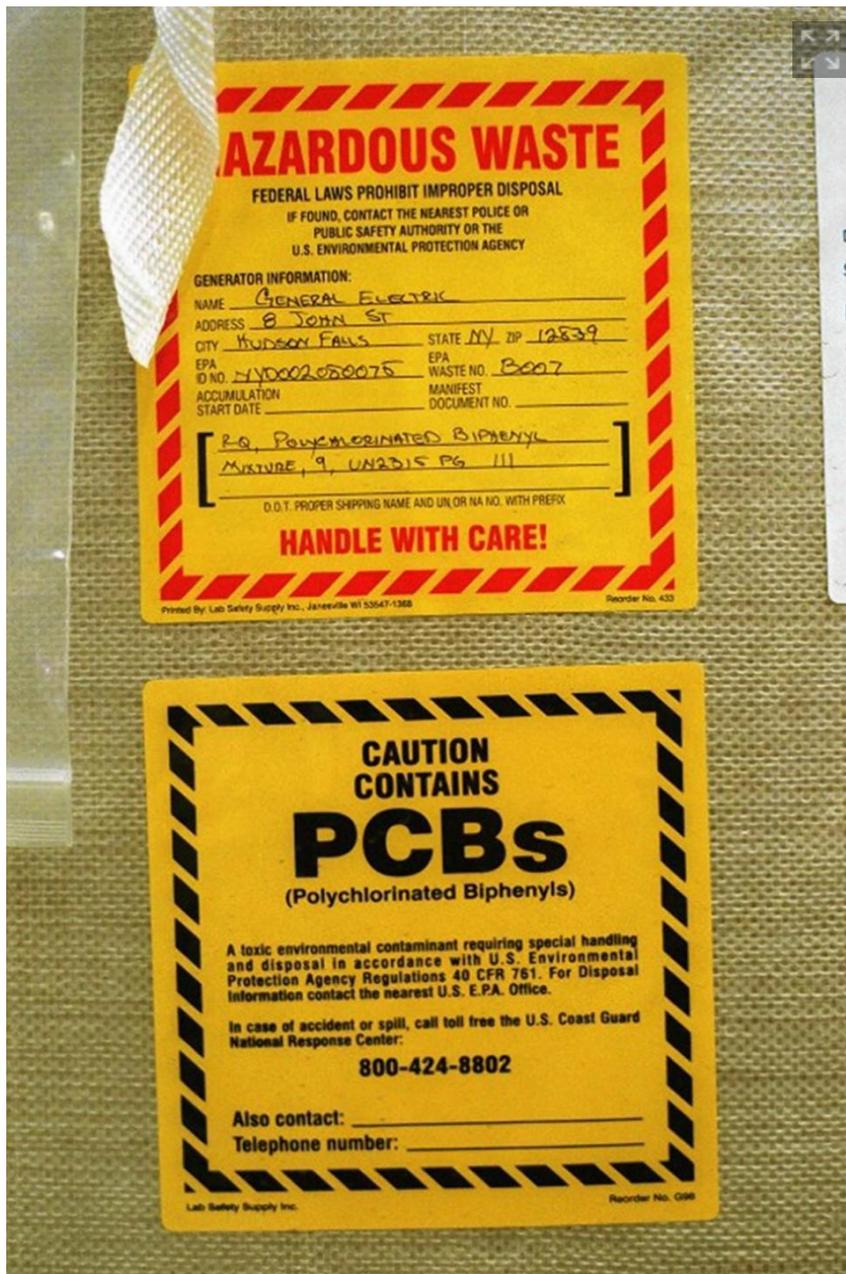
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The Environmental Protection Agency will give parents a chance Thursday to discuss the city's plan to remove toxic PCBs from public schools.

Environmental advocates say the chemicals, which can affect the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems, can still be detected in caulking and soil in many schools.

The city agreed last year to remove PCB-contaminated light fixtures from more than 600 school buildings by 2016.



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PCBs can affect the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems, and are still prevalent in the window caulk and soil of some New York City schools, environmental advocates say.

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PCBs were common in building materials before they were banned by Congress in 1976.

The city agreed to study PCB contamination in schools in response to a 2009 lawsuit filed by a Bronx parent, and recently set aside another \$480 million to remove the chemicals from schools.

Environmental Protection Agency public meeting, at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School, 160-20 Goethals Ave. in Jamaica, June 5 at 6:30 p.m.