

ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT COMPARISON TOOL

A tool for understanding environmental decisions related to the pulp and paper industry



CHLORINATED
COMPOUNDS

EFFECTS OF RECYCLED FIBER USE ON CHLORINATED COMPOUNDS

PCBs in Recovered Fiber

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) can sometimes enter the recovered paper stream in the form of old carbonless copy paper (produced before 1971, when the use of PCBs in such products was stopped). In years past, as these papers were recovered for recycling they tended to be found primarily in grades of recovered paper used by deinking mills. By now, almost all of the old paper that contained PCBs has been purged from files so that likelihood of finding PCBs in mills wastes due to recycling of old carbonless copy paper has declined dramatically. Because this has been an issue of diminishing importance, there has been little effort to collect recent monitoring data, but a study by NCASI in the early 1990s found that levels of PCBs in post-1989 effluent samples from 11 deinking mills effluents were below detectable levels 99% of the time (NCASI 1994).

Reference

National Council [of the Paper Industry] for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI). 1994. *PCB and TCDD/F levels in effluents from deinking mills producing fine paper or tissue and toweling*. Technical Bulletin No. 671. New York: National Council of the Paper Industry for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc.