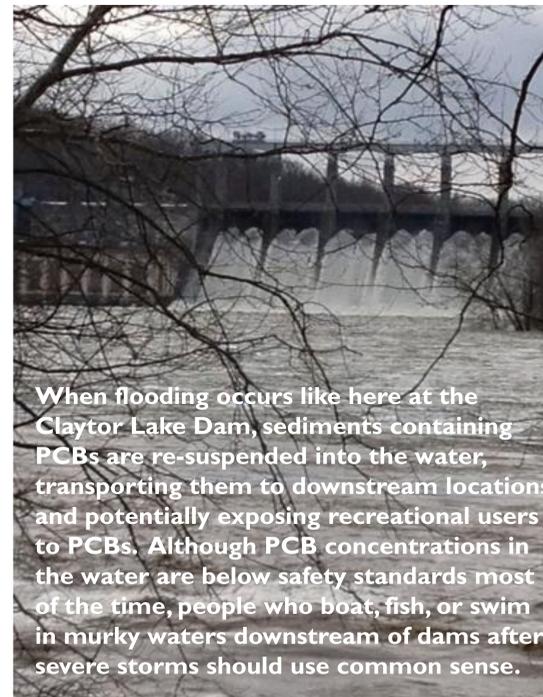


# Why do we care about PCBs?

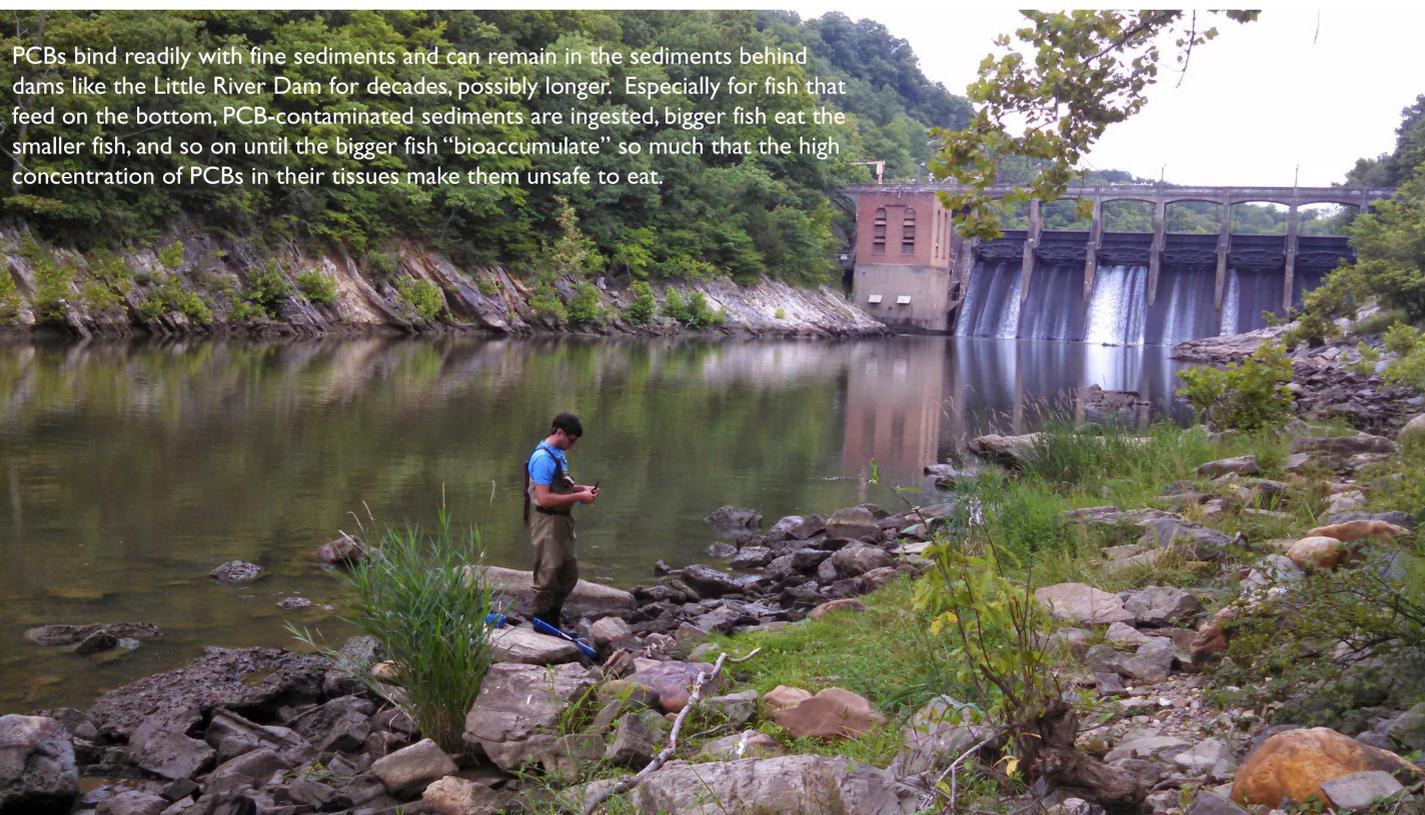
Consumption of PCBs in contaminated fish and/or physical contact with high concentrations of PCBs have been associated with these medical conditions:

- Liver Cancer
- Headaches & Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Low Birth Weight
- Thyroid Dysfunction



When flooding occurs like here at the Claytor Lake Dam, sediments containing PCBs are re-suspended into the water, transporting them to downstream locations and potentially exposing recreational users to PCBs. Although PCB concentrations in the water are below safety standards most of the time, people who boat, fish, or swim in murky waters downstream of dams after severe storms should use common sense.

Similarly to flooding over dams, rain that runs off contaminated sites can significantly increase concentrations of PCBs in downstream lakes, rivers, and creeks, even during nominal storm events.



PCBs bind readily with fine sediments and can remain in the sediments behind dams like the Little River Dam for decades, possibly longer. Especially for fish that feed on the bottom, PCB-contaminated sediments are ingested, bigger fish eat the smaller fish, and so on until the bigger fish "bioaccumulate" so much that the high concentration of PCBs in their tissues make them unsafe to eat.

