



Czech Rep.: PCB toxic substances might have leaked from Spolana during floods

Report

from [Czech News Agency](#)

Published on 24 Oct 2002

MELNIK, Central Bohemia, Oct 24 (CTK) - Not only dioxins but other toxic substances - polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) - probably leaked from the Spolana chemical works into the Labe River during the mid-August floods, Arnika environmental association deputy head Jindrich Petrlik told journalists today.

The results of the analyses of samples taken by Arnika in the river near Spolana located at Neratovice testify to this, said Petrlik who informed journalists in Melnik about the results of these analyses.

He said, however, that the levels of PCB measured in the Labe were not life-threatening.

However, the increased concentration of PCB should lead the responsible bodies to making thorough checks from where the toxic substance blamed for health problems leaked.

This toxic substance can enter the human body through food and concentrate in fat tissues. It can have a negative impact on the immunity and hormonal systems.

With the help of its analyses Arnika wants to force the Czech Environmental Inspection to thoroughly investigate the possibility of PCB's leak from the chemical plant's area. It also intends to inform the police, the Environment Ministry, the local authority and the Labe basin authority about its findings.

The production and use of PCB was banned in Czechoslovakia in the 1980s. However, the plant still experiences problems with PCB destruction in some specialised production units.

Arnika is expected to also publish the results of its fresh analyses of samples of soil which it gathered in the private farmers' fields near Spolana.

Spolana came to the centre of public attention during and after the mid-August devastating flooding when a big quantity of chlorine and other dangerous substances leaked from the plant to the Labe River.



Primary country

[Czechia](#)



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Content format:

[News and Press Release](#)

Language:

[English](#)

Disaster type:

[Flood](#)