

Late-Breaking News!!

This notice from the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation arrived at press time. The site is the old VEPCO power station at the curve where Pershing becomes Buchanan, between 4th and 6th Streets.

NOTICE

November 20, 1993

As a part of an Arlington County contract to purchase from Virginia Power for additional parkland, the site of the former Barcroft substation adjacent to Glencarlyn Park, the County initiated a series of soil tests as part of its routine examination before acquiring the property. We were particularly interested in the potential presence of the chemical polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which may be associated with the previous uses of properties of this type.

At this time we do not have final results; however, preliminary indications from these tests indicate a possible increased level of PCBs in one localized portion of County property along Pershing Drive, adjacent to the former power substation.

Based on what we know at this time, there is no reason to believe that there is any urgent health hazard or acute health risk to anyone living in the area. Health concerns related to PCBs are from extensive, direct skin contact or ingestion, typically through food or water--and even in those cases rarely have negative health effects been shown.

As a precautionary measure, however, the County is erecting a fence to limit public access to the area and create a buffer around the site while testing continues.

The County will continue to gather information about the nature of the particular PCBs that may be on the site and will be sharing that with you.

Once again, these are precautionary measures. At this time, we have no evidence of a health hazard or conclusive evidence of contamination.

Arlington County Government

558-2226