



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

November 9, 2005

Jeff Ruch, Executive Director  
Richard Condit, General Counsel  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
2001 S Street, NW  
Suite 570  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the data on perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in samples of liver from Mississippi River fish found near Cottage Grove, MN. We had previously received these data from the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and we appreciate your concern about PFCs in the environment.

The MPCA data define PFC concentrations found in fish liver. While these data are an indicator of fish's exposure to PFCs, they do not represent or predict the amount of PFCs in the fillet portion of the fish. At this time, the levels of PFCs in fillet tissue of Mississippi River fish are unknown. Data on levels of PFCs in fillet tissue are needed to evaluate human health risk from consumption of these fish. Accordingly, the MN Department of Health has not issued a fish consumption advisory related to PFC levels.

It is our understanding that the MPCA plans to collect Mississippi River fish and analyze fillets from these fish for PFCs. When these data are made available, we will reassess the need for issuing fish consumption advice. We defer your concern regarding risk to wildlife to EPA and MPCA.

For your information, MDH currently has advice to limit fish consumption of fish in the Mississippi River based on mercury and polychlorinated biphenyl levels that has been measured in the fish. Please see our web site for more information on our current guidelines. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/fish/index.html>

Please be advised that after further quality review by the reporting laboratory, the data Dr. Oliaei presented at the Federal and State Toxicology and Risk Analysis Committee meeting have been revised. Specifically, the amount of PFOS measured in the smallmouth bass you mention in your letter is now reported as 6350 ppb.

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If you would like to discuss these issues please contact Pat McCann at 651-201-4915 or  
[patirica.mccann@health.state.mn.us](mailto:patirica.mccann@health.state.mn.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia A. Bloomgren".

Patricia A. Bloomgren, Director  
Environmental Health Division  
P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975

PAB:JLS:pc

cc: Pat McCann  
Larry Gust