

1 Q. **Reference: Application, Terminal Station Renewal Program (2023-2024)**

2 Is there a way to test for PCB contamination? What needs to happen in order for PCB
3 contamination to become a health hazard?

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6 A. There are ways to test for polychlorinated biphenyl ("PCB") contamination.

7 Oil-filled equipment may be sampled and tested when practical to do so. Hydro's philosophy on
8 testing oil-filled equipment for PCBs has been to take oil samples from oil-filled equipment that
9 has not been sealed at the factory (such as power transformers and oil circuit breakers) but to
10 not take samples from in-service sealed equipment such as potential transformers, current
11 transformers, or bushings due to the risk of drawing moisture or debris into the sealed
12 equipment being sampled. However, PCB oil samples are taken on all oil-filled sealed equipment
13 removed from service and this data determines how the equipment will be disposed of. For
14 planning purposes, manufacturer data, age, and previous test results of sealed equipment
15 removed from service are used to determine suspect PCB sealed equipment to replace prior to
16 2025.

17 For light ballast, it may be possible to perform a swab test; however, Hydro's philosophy is to
18 dispose of the suspect light ballast (a light ballast identified in accordance with known suspect
19 types, manufacturer, and year of manufacture) as PCB waste without further testing. These
20 ballasts are relatively small and are not practical to test.

21 PCBs can become a health hazard through direct exposure or through environmental
22 contamination. Hydro is mandated to remove any equipment containing a concentration of
23 PCBs of 50 milligrams per kilogram or greater by 2025 under the PCB Regulations.¹

¹ SOR/2008-273.