

# Pollutants Leading to Stream Impairments in Henry County

The main pollutants in Henry County's waterways that have caused impairment are :

- ⇒ Fecal coliforms
- ⇒ Sediment
- ⇒ PCBs



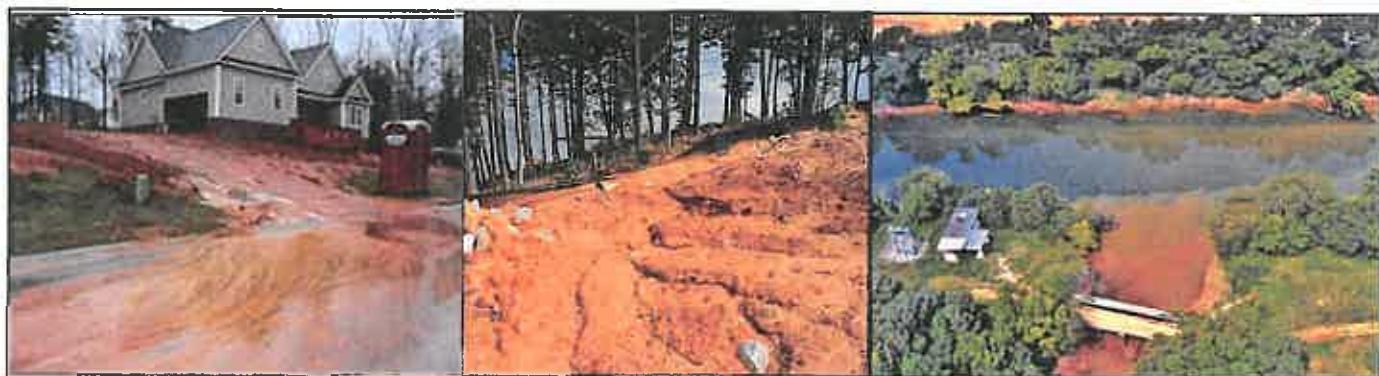
## Fecal Coliforms

The presence of fecal coliform bacteria in aquatic environments indicates that the water has been contaminated with the fecal material of human or wildlife origin. At the time this occurred, the source water may have been contaminated by pathogens or disease producing bacteria or viruses which can also exist in fecal material. The presence of fecal contamination is an indicator that a potential health risk exists for individuals exposed to this water. Fecal coliform bacteria may occur in water as a result of the overflow of domestic sewage, faulty septic systems or nonpoint sources of human and animal waste.



## Sedimentation

Sediment is considered to be the most common pollutant in the Nation's waterways. Stormwater can carry loose soil and plant and animal materials into nearby waterways. Loose soil is often found in areas of development from construction sites, including residential and commercial building. Sediment degrades the quality of the water for wildlife, the land and as a drinking water source.

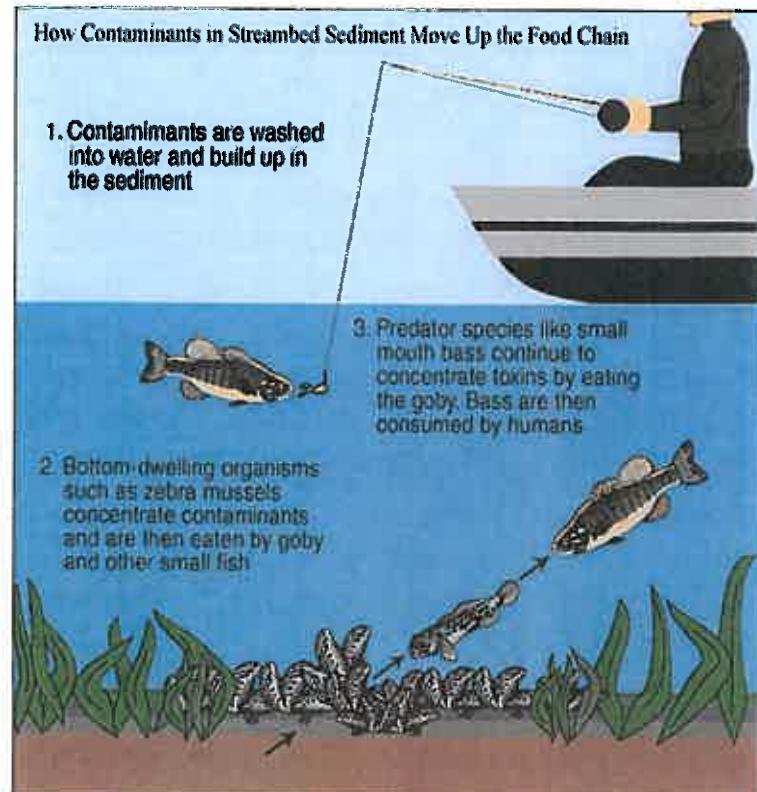


## Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) are synthetic organic chemicals that were manufactured for nearly 50 years before being banned in the United States in 1979. PCBs were found in many items including:

- Plastics
- Electrical equipment
- Thermal insulation
- Adhesives
- Caulking
- Transformers and capacitors

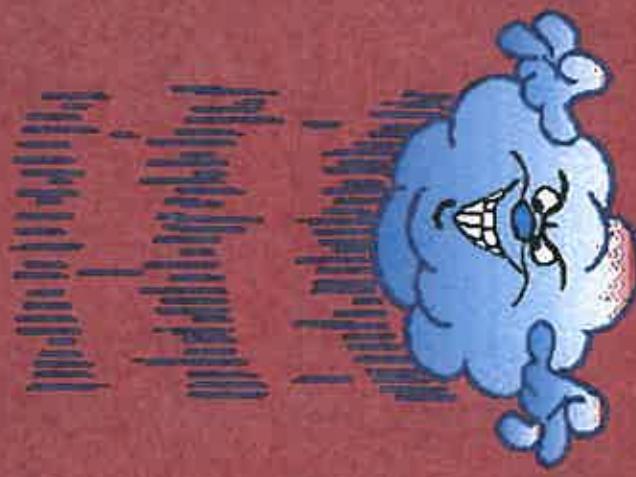
PCBs can still be released into the environment through poorly maintained hazardous wastes sites. They do not break down readily, they travel easily, and bioaccumulation within the food chain occurs. There have been links to negative health effects in humans, including effects to the nervous, endocrine, reproductive and immune systems and cancer.



# What is a Drought?

-A drought is occurring when there is not enough water for everyone to use.

Not Enough Rain!



# Where Does My Water Come From?

Lakes



Streams



Rain

