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**Sent:** Saturday, May 01, 2004 2:15 PM  
**Subject:** TECH BANK: MORE ON LEAD

Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine;

Below you will read very recent news that lead **IS** a pandemic problem [which we've understood for a long time]. Also, I have included all previous Splash and Forum Q & A below on lead for your convenience, which is why this Newsbulletin is longer than usual.

Please review the F & B for the Aquathin LeadOut Filter....it outperforms "ordinary RO" for lead, cadmium, nickle, flouride, arsenic reduction, but not RODI ! You have two super alternatives for your Customers that need to deal with lead.

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The Washington Times  
[www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com)

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## [Aging U.S. water systems pose lead risk](#)

By Tom Ramstack  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES  
Published April 28, 2004

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Cities nationwide risk problems similar to the lead found in the Washington area's water supply unless they replace old pipelines, according to water-purification experts.

The nation's aging infrastructure is leaching lead from pipes in old buildings into municipal water supplies, creating a health hazard that is difficult for government to eliminate, said Ralph McCarter, spokesman for the National Rural Water Association.

"If you go into an old house, it's impractical to take the old piping out of the walls," Mr. McCarter said. "Who wants to tear up their kitchen or basement to take the pipes out of the walls? The cost of doing that is really prohibitive."

He is scheduled to testify today before the House Transportation and Infrastructure water resources and environment subcommittee during a hearing on water infrastructure.

A 1999 Environmental Protection Agency survey estimated the nation's drinking-water systems need repairs and upgrades of \$150 billion over 20 years.

Nevertheless, EPA officials say the nation's water systems are safe.

"High lead levels are not a pervasive problem," said Cathy Milbourn, EPA spokeswoman.

All but about 3 percent of public pipelines containing lead have been replaced with nontoxic materials, according to the American Water Works Association, a water-treatment industry scientific and educational group.

Pipes with lead solder on the fittings were banned by the 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act.

Nevertheless, some buildings built before 1986 are leaking lead into water systems as they age.

"Unfortunately, Washington, D.C., does not have a corner on that market," Mr. McCarter said.

Resulting health problems can include brain damage, high blood pressure and risk of miscarriage, according to some scientific reports.

Pregnant women and children age 6 and younger are the only populations at risk from lead in the District's drinking water, Dr. Thomas Calhoun, the D.C. Health Department's Emergency Health and Medical Services medical director, said last month.

Jerry N. Johnson, general manager of the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA), described the cost to repair the nation's water systems as "enormous" in testimony he prepared to deliver to Congress today.

WASA would need to spend \$300 million to \$350 million to replace its pipelines containing lead, he said. It would cost D.C. residents \$6 to \$7 a month, he told the D.C. Council in February.

"Age is the primary reason we are confronted with such high estimates of infrastructure-spending needs," Mr. Johnson said in his congressional remarks.

The EPA requires utilities to replace pipelines containing lead anytime water running through them contains more than 15 parts per billion of lead.

More than two-thirds of the approximately 6,000 homes tested in Washington had lead levels exceeding the standard, some as high as 83 parts per billion.

Howard Neukrug, spokes-man for the American Water Works Association, plans to testify that property law restrictions make the replacement difficult.

Some water lines that private property owners share with utilities leak lead into the public systems.

"A public water system has no legal means to compel a property owner to replace a lead service line or portion of a lead service line," Mr. Neukrug's prepared testimony says.

David G. Wallace, mayor of Sugar Land, Texas, who will represent the U.S. Conference of Mayors, plans to ask Congress to lift a cap on tax-exempt municipal bonds to pay for water system projects.

The Conference of Mayors says the bonds would attract private investors to make up the funding shortfall.

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**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2004 3:11 PM

**Subject:** EXCESSIVE CONCENTRATIONS OF LEAD NOT LIMITED TO OUR NATION'S CAPITOL

*Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine, with special attention to Lomax Water Purification Services in D.C., Splash NewsBulletin and Allergic Reaction NewsBulletin Members;*

*Need another reason to own an Aquathin !? Over the years we've talked about the main fact that often notification of water concerns and contamination arrive to your doorstep long after the exposure. Here is a classic case right in our own nation's capitol. Steve Lomax, my friend and Authorized Aquathin Dealer for almost 12 years, and I have known about the prevalence of lead at hundreds of parts per billion over the MCL, for almost as long. You have several test analysis in your Master Catalogue. There are thousands of LeadOut Filters in government and other public buildings. This problem exists wherever there are older structures that most often contain leaded piping....and its the world over.*

*But there is another issue below that often goes unnoticed concerning just how long it will take to rectify. Hence this issue is the known exposure until we personally take action to protect our families.*

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**washingtonpost.com**

## **Council Furious With Water Agency**

Delayed Report of High Lead Levels Prompts Calls for Review

By David Nakamura and Neely Tucker  
Washington Post Staff Writers  
Sunday, February 1, 2004; Page C01

Several D.C. Council members said yesterday that they were outraged that District leaders were not informed about lead contamination in thousands of city homes and called for an immediate review of the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority's performance.

The city officials said they were not aware that tap water in 4,075 homes had tested above the federal limit for lead until they read about the tests in yesterday's Washington Post. WASA, which first learned of lead contamination problems in 2002, should have been more diligent in informing the public and answering questions, they said.

"I'm furious about the fact we did not know about this," said Carol Schwartz (R-At Large), head of the council's Committee on Public Works and the Environment, which oversees aspects of the semi-independent water and sewer agency.

"The only way you can solve a problem is to know that there is one," said council Chairman Linda W. Cropp (D-At Large). "If you don't know there is a problem, what can you do? The city leadership ought to know. . . . We need to have hearings and work out a solution."

Schwartz's committee has scheduled its annual performance review for WASA on Feb. 10, but Schwartz said she will try to schedule an emergency hearing this week.



**"I want to find out what they know, when they knew it and what they're going to do about it," she said.**

Tony Bullock, spokesman for Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D), said yesterday that the administration probably will ask WASA and the D.C. Department of Health for a briefing this week. "We'll take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the integrity of the health of that supply system," Bullock said. "The sampling results are alarming, and we are going to get fully engaged in this matter at the earliest opportunity."

**Ellen K. Silbergeld, a professor of environmental health sciences at Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health in Baltimore, said yesterday that the lead levels in the District are "very, very worrisome." There are high risks, she said, "for pregnant women, those who are nursing and infants. Using water for drinking, formula or even preparing food should be avoided."**

Studies have shown that children who ingest lead from water, paint or dust are at greater risk because their gastrointestinal tracts are more likely to absorb the lead and their developing neurological systems are more vulnerable to damage.

Silbergeld recommended that worried residents test the water first before seeking medical exams, saying low levels of lead in children do not produce noticeable symptoms. She also said lead exposure in adults can lead to increased risk of dying from cardiovascular diseases.

**The discovery of lead in tap water has caused concern among residents in many D.C. neighborhoods because the city has 23,000 lead service lines that run through all four quadrants.**

Eric Pierotti, who runs the plumbing department at Frager's Hardware on Capitol Hill, said the store received many calls yesterday from people who wanted to take precautions. He said callers were inquiring about "water testing kits and filtration systems that cover everything from one tap to the entire house."

WASA officials said they are uncertain why the levels of lead have spiked above the Environmental Protection Agency's lead limit of 15 parts per billion.

Random water testing in about 50 homes flagged the lead contamination in 2002. The EPA has specific guidelines that cities must follow when lead in water exceeds the limit, including informing residents of the risks associated with lead and replacing 7 percent of lead service lines annually.

WASA officials said that in October 2002, they mailed an 11-page brochure about the dangers of lead to every customer in the city. On Page 10, one paragraph noted that during WASA's "last sampling program in the summer of 2001 and June 2002, some . . . homes tested above 15 ppb." That was the only indication in the brochure that a problem had been discovered.

The agency then began replacing 7 percent of its lead service lines each year and undertook a much larger sample -- of more than 6,000 homes -- last summer. That's when widespread problems were discovered.

Glenn S. Gerstell, chairman of WASA's 11-member board of directors, said that WASA had mailed a letter to all 13 D.C. Council members last February noting that initial tests had found that the water exceeded the EPA's lead limit. He acknowledged, however, that the agency did not send follow-up letters after the larger sampling was done last summer. WASA also did not hold a news conference to discuss its findings.

"Could we be more aggressive reaching out? Maybe so," Gerstell said. "That's something the board should look at. We're always eager to improve operations. But I want to negate any suggestion whatsoever we are attempting to minimize or downplay or sweep this under the rug."

Any news conference, Gerstell said, "would have been an unsatisfactory news conference. We did not know what [the contamination] was due to scientifically or where it was coming from or how many homes were involved. We need more tests. A news conference would have raised a lot of questions and provided no answers at that time."

Council member Adrian M. Fenty (D-Ward 4) disagreed. "There's no sense of urgency with these guys," Fenty said. "WASA needs to be more accountable."

Jim Graham (D-Ward 1) was one of the few council members who recalled hearing about the lead contamination last summer. He said he was contacted by several constituents who were notified by WASA that their water had high lead levels.

WASA officials met with him at his office, Graham said, and reluctantly agreed to replace lead service lines on one street in his ward.

"We had to hammer them to get this action," Graham said. "It wasn't something where they came in and said, 'Sure, no problem.' It was a very tough conversation. It wasn't easy."

Tom Bryant, whose home in Northwest Washington tested as having high lead levels in the water, attended a community meeting in November at which WASA and D.C. Department of Health officials answered questions.

"They were very forthcoming at that meeting," Bryant said. "They made a big effort. They had three or four people there, and they made a big slide presentation."

But his neighbor, Nancy Lensen-Tomasson, whose water also showed high lead levels, said WASA officials told her they did not plan to replace any lead service lines on her block this year.

"Not enough information has been given out," she said yesterday.

Rebecca Epstein, who lives in American University Park and also has high lead levels in the water, said she fears for the health of her 5-month-old son. But when she told neighbors of the lead in her water, she said, "No one was aware of the problems."

WASA held a public meeting in December at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library to discuss the lead problems. But its notice of the meeting, which ran on its Web site and in community newspapers, did not state that lead had been found in tap water.

Georgetown resident Charles Eason, **whose water tested 36 times the EPA's lead limit**, said that he attended the meeting and that only one other resident was there.

"We're often disappointed at the turnout," said Johnnie Hemphill, WASA's spokesman. "We took the appropriate approach at the time. It's not the case that we were simply being reactive."

WASA said those with concerns should call the WASA hotline at 202-787-2732.

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**Sent:** Saturday, March 02, 2002 7:35 PM  
**Subject:** FORUM Q & A: LEAD

*Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine;*

*Today's Forum Q & A is concerning lead. This timely information below discusses up to date new medical findings. I have **boldfaced** the paragraph regarding water.*

*Warmest regards,*

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*P.S. When responding please continue 'REPLY' to include all previous correspondences on this subject.*

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Daily World News

## **Lead Exposure Linked to Antisocial Behavior**

**CINCINNATI, Ohio**, March 1, 2002 (ENS) - Exposure to lead in childhood could lead to antisocial or even criminal behavior in adults, a new study suggests. The first comprehensive lead study to track children over a period of time found that both prenatal and postnatal exposure to lead were associated with antisocial behavior in children and adolescents.

"It appears that the neurodevelopmental effects of this avoidable environmental diseases of childhood may not be limited to declines in IQ or academic abilities," said Dr. Kim Dietrich, associate director of Cincinnati Children's Environmental Health Center and the lead author of the study.

Researchers at the Environmental Health Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, in collaboration with University of Cincinnati researchers, followed inner city adolescents recruited into the study before birth between 1979 and 1985. Mothers known to be addicted to drugs or alcohol, diabetic, or those with proven neurological disorders, psychoses or mental retardation were excluded from the study.

Between 1997 and 1999, 195 of these adolescents received follow up exams. Ninety-two percent were African American and 53 percent were male.

Blood lead levels were taken from mothers during pregnancy and from children every three months between birth and age six, covering the time period when most developmental growth involving the brain occurs.

Researchers asked the adolescents and their parents or legal guardians to document antisocial or delinquent behavior. This method of self reporting has been proved to be more valid than official records, which reflect only a small portion of antisocial acts actually committed, the researchers explained.

"Self reported acts of delinquent behavior were common," said Dietrich. "Adolescents with the highest blood lead concentrations when they were first graders reported, on average, 4.5 more delinquent acts in the previous 12



months compared to children with the lowest blood lead concentrations as first graders."

Delinquency was defined as behaviors in violation of legal statutes involving some risk of arrest, including offenses against property or persons, or other illegal activities such as driving without a license and disorderly conduct.

The researchers found that exposure to lead was associated with antisocial behavior, even after adjusting for other factors that could lead to similar behavior. These included quality of home environment, low birth weight, parental intelligence and social class.

To their surprise, the researchers found no gender differences in antisocial behavior. Girls were just as likely as boys to be violent and to be institutionalized for their behavior.

While lead could be interfering with the usual gender differences seen in behavior, it is more likely that gender is becoming less a predictor of behavior in inner city populations, said Dr. Dietrich, professor of Environmental Health and Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati.

The study, which appears in the journal "Neurotoxicology and Teratology," supports previous work at the University of Pittsburgh that suggested that children exposed to lead have significantly greater odds of developing delinquent behavior.

University of Pittsburgh researcher Dr. Herbert Needleman, professor of child psychiatry and pediatrics, examined the bone lead levels of 216 youths convicted in a juvenile court and 201 non-delinquent controls from high schools in Pittsburgh.

"Of all the causes of juvenile delinquency, lead exposure is perhaps the most preventable," said Needleman. "These results should be a call to action for legislators to protect our children by requiring landlords to not simply disclose known instances of lead paint in their properties, but to remove it."

These reports join a growing body of evidence linking lead to health, cognitive and behavioral problems in children. In the U.S., almost a million children under the age of six suffer from lead poisoning.

Lead exposure can cause permanent damage to the brain and other organs. Research shows that children with elevated blood lead levels are seven times more likely to drop out of school and twice as likely to lose a few years in language acquisition.

Prior studies by Needleman linking lead exposure to lower IQ scores, short attention spans and poor language skills helped prompt nationwide government bans on lead from paint, gasoline and food and beverage cans.

But there are still a number of ways in which children, and adults, may be exposed to lead. Most children who suffer from lead poisoning are exposed to invisible lead dust that is released when older paint is peeling, damaged or disturbed, or by eating chips of lead paint.

**Drinking water that comes from lead pipes or lead soldered fittings can expose children to lead, as can breathing air contaminated by the lead smelting, refining and manufacturing industries.**

Tobacco smoke contains some lead, and hobbies that use lead, such as leaded glass ceramics, can cause environmental exposures. Eating contaminated food grown on soil containing lead or food covered with lead containing dust is another source of exposure.

Problems from lead exposure are not limited to children. A study by researchers at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, found that lead exposure on the job can cause progressive declines in memory and learning abilities nearly two decades later.

Another study, from Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals of Cleveland, Ohio, demonstrated



that people who have worked in jobs with high levels of lead exposure are up to 3.4 times more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease

"Although lead has long been known to be toxic - and is believed to have affected the brains of some of the rulers of the Roman Empire, thereby causing its downfall - its long term damages are difficult to measure," said Elisabeth Koss, PhD, lead author of the study. "The extent of its negative effects have been largely overlooked."



**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2004 10:08 AM

**Subject:** TREATED LAWNS AND A CONNECTION WITH BLADDER CANCER

*Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine, Splash NewsBulletin and Allergic Reaction NewsBulletin Members;*

*This quick read below is more of a "public service reminder" for our Dealers and Customers. You will read about the potential connection from fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and bladder cancer in pets. In past Splash NewsBulletins we've reported that a leading source of pollution today is farm runoff whereby entire regions are "slug loaded" with fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.*

*One final point; the article discusses doing a double cross over study of treated and untreated lawns. I certainly hope they are astute enough to look at homes with treated lawns on well water vs. city water and the effects of exposure through ingestion vs. skin contact.*

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Reuters

**Lawn Chemicals Linked to Dog Cancer - U.S. Study**

Tue Apr 20, 5:55 PM ET

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A study that links lawn chemicals to bladder cancer in Scottish terriers could help shed light on whether they cause cancer in some people, U.S. researchers said on Tuesday.

Purdue University researchers surveyed 83 owners of Scottish terriers whose pets had recently been diagnosed with bladder cancer for their report, published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association.

"The risk ... was found to be between four and seven times more likely in exposed animals," said Larry Glickman, professor of epidemiology and environmental medicine in Purdue's School of Veterinary Medicine.

"While we hope to determine which of the many chemicals in lawn treatments are responsible, we also hope the similarity between human and dog genomes will allow us to find the genetic predisposition toward this form of cancer found in both Scotties and certain people."

Glickman and his colleagues earlier found that Scotties are about 20 times more likely to develop bladder cancer than other breeds.

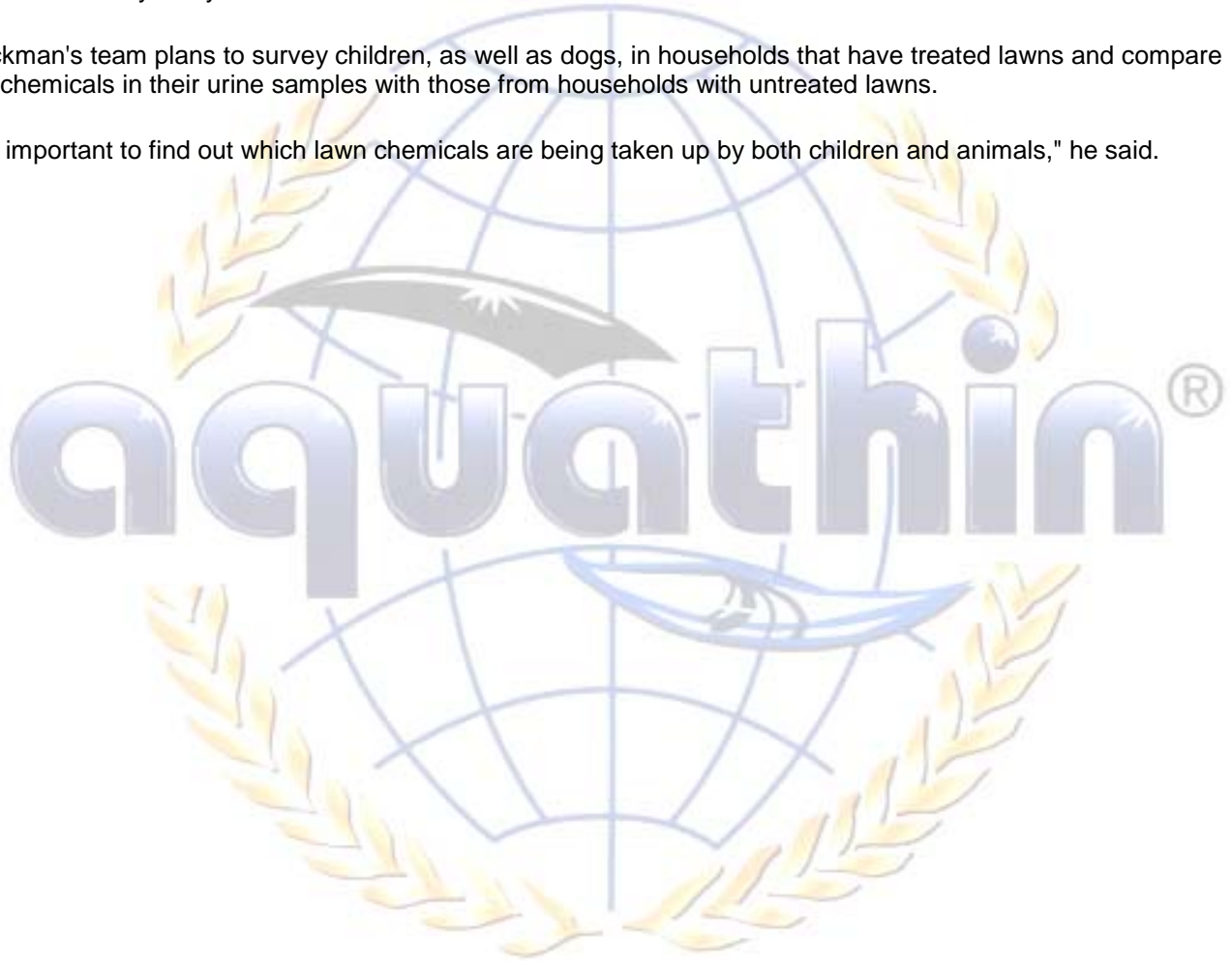
"These dogs are more sensitive to some factors in their environment," Glickman said in a statement. "As pets tend to spend a fair amount of time in contact with plants treated with herbicides and insecticides, we decided to find out whether lawn chemicals were having any effect on cancer frequency."

The National Cancer Institute ([news - web sites](#)) says about 38,000 men and 15,000 women are diagnosed with bladder cancer each year. Humans and animals often share genes that can predispose them to cancer.

"If such a gene exists in dogs, it's likely that it exists in a similar location in the human genome," Glickman said. "Finding the dog gene could save years in the search for it in humans and could also help us determine which kids need to stay away from lawn chemicals."

Glickman's team plans to survey children, as well as dogs, in households that have treated lawns and compare the chemicals in their urine samples with those from households with untreated lawns.

"It's important to find out which lawn chemicals are being taken up by both children and animals," he said.





Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2004 3:10 PM

Subject: SCOTTISH TROUT POLLUTED BY FLAME RETARDANT

Dear Roger & Jim;

As an avid fisherman, I am deeply grieved that some of the greatest (and known to be the most pristine) fishing areas in Scotland have become contaminated with flame retardants. What makes matters even worse, is that PDBE is a bioaccumulator (refer to Forum Q & A Feb. 2, 2002).

This article is a must read for those that believe their water or well water is OK.

Warmest regards to all,

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**Edie weekly summaries 13/04/2004**

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### Trout from Royal estate are ten times higher in pollution

Brown trout from Lochnagar on the Royal Balmoral Estate in Scotland have been found to contain ten times the concentration of a pollutant from chemicals used as flame retardants than those in any other European lakes.

This was the shock finding of a study of 11 remote lakes in Northern Europe and Greenland to gauge how widely polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PDBE), used as flame retardants in lots of plastics, electrical goods, textiles and cars, had spread. The researchers from Spanish and Norwegian universities found PDBEs were present in all of the lakes.

They studied concentrations in mountain lakes to determine how far the PDBE travels by air. As fish are at the top of the food chain and the locations were away from human habitation, any pollution would have to have come from the air, the researchers said.

Mike Donaghy, from WWF Scotland said: "It could be that they were present in the rain which fell on the lakes, or in dust or other material deposited from the air, then they would have entered the food chain, eventually reaching the

fish which accumulated them."

Dr Grimalt of Barcelona University, who led the study, said of the Balmoral trout: "As this lake shows concentrations so much higher than others, it should be monitored to study the long term health of its fish." He did stress, however, that at present levels were not immediately hazardous.

Equally surprising was that PDBEs were also found in arctic carp from a remote lake in Western Greenland - a country with very little industrial development at all. Anne-Marie Bjerg, from WWF Denmark explained that Greenland suffers from transborder pollution.

"Because of the prevailing winds Greenland is the recipient of pollution from North America, the Ruhr Valley in Germany and even mainland China, so the pollution could have travelled thousands of kilometres," she said.

By David Hopkins

