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Michigan's PBB Contamination Not Forgotten: Scientists to Host Online PBB Community Meeting

Gratiot County, MI – On Tuesday, March 4, 2025, The Emory University PBB research team wants to hear from people who were exposed to the chemical PBB after an accident that contaminated livestock feed, farmland, and food animal products such as meat, milk, and eggs on Michigan farms in the 1970s. The research team will share PBB research results from studies examining mortality, autoimmune disorders, weight loss, ADHD, and others, as well as listen to continued concerns regarding the health effects of the PBB contamination.

In 1973, PBB, a chemical used as a fire retardant in electronics and other household products, was mistakenly sent to the Michigan Farm Bureau instead of a nutritional supplement. The PBB was mixed into livestock feed and fed to farm animals across the state of Michigan. It took a year to discover the cause of the farm animals' illnesses. In the meantime, contaminated milk, beef, eggs, and other farm products were sold throughout the state, and residents across Michigan ate the farm products contaminated with PBB.

Approximately 5,000 Michigan residents have participated in the Michigan PBB Registry to study the possible long-term health effects related to PBB exposure. The Emory University PBB research team has studied the health effects of Michigan PBB contamination for over 20 years and has partnered with local groups, including the PBB Citizens Advisory Board and the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force.

If you, your parents, or your grandparents were part of the Michigan PBB Registry (formerly named the Michigan Long-Term PBB Study), we hope you will join the Emory University PBB research team and help guide future research examining the health effects of Michigan's PBB contamination.

On Tuesday, March 4th at 6:30 PM ET, you can join the online PBB Community Meeting via Zoom or on the PBB Registry's Facebook page (links below).

For more information visit: <https://www.pbbregistry.emory.edu/>

Meeting information:

Date: Tuesday, March 4th,

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM ET

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/97018182362PBB>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/PBBRegistry>

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Mid-Michigan District Health Department has proudly served the residents of Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties since 1966. We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.