

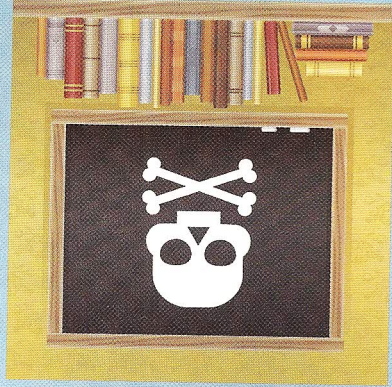
More Toxic Ballasts in New York Schools

The investigation also revealed another significant problem—the casing around many

of the toxic ballasts had broken, allowing PCBs to spread to the fixture housing, wires and diffusers. While some of these damaged ballasts had been replaced with new ones, the contamination remained due to improper

clean-up of the leaked toxins. “The results give us a new sense of urgency—and certainly they, along with all of the results so far, point to a widespread problem that should

and must be addressed by New York City in order to lower any potential risk of long-term exposure,” says Mary Mears, a spokeswoman for the E.P.A. in New York.



In the March issue of *LD+A*, Willard

Warren called attention to *The New York Times'* December report on PCB-laden magnetic ballasts in New York City

schools. Later, the newspaper issued a follow-up story, and the bad news got worse:

An ongoing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigation of New York City schools revealed that pollution levels were even higher than expected. At P.S. 45 in Brooklyn ballasts were found with

PCB levels of up to 660,000 parts per million, a massive amount compared to the EPA's regulatory limit of 50 parts per million. Inspections at five other schools showed levels of up to 260,000

parts per million.