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TOXIC WASTE



An Investigative Study by

Toxic Campaign Fund

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May 1992

Inconclusive by Design: *Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Federal Environmental Health Research*

Investigative Study by the
Environmental Health Network
and the National Toxics Campaign Fund

*One of the conspicuous casualties in the war against toxic wastes is the respect
regard for public health officials. More often than anyone would like, frustrated and
concerned citizens have received little sympathy, understanding, or help from local
state, or federal health agencies. Instead, officials have tried to minimize public*

Community Health and Safety Project Committee Memorandum

Toxic Campaign Fund

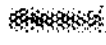
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Fred Nelson
Darryl and Ramona Stevens



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This Report Is De

Of The Uncounted Multitudes
Whose Lives Were Taken by Toxic Pollution

Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Federal Environmental Health Research

and the National Toxics Campaign Fund

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Systemic Environmental Health Problems Demand Systemic Solutions

But instead of systematically applying precautionary public health principles consistent with their legal and ethical duties, the federal agencies have engaged in politically-driven "white washes".

They have become virtual propaganda tools of polluting industries. Instead of public protection their foremost focus. One result has been an increase in public concern, agency and government inaction at many sites where further precautions are needed. Exposures are merit

The methods of dis but underlying most of their activities is a single theme. The studies in which they are engaged often may appear to be formal and scientific but behind this veneer are inconclusive by design.

studied, including refusals to study the sickest

o Inadequate contact with populations being

Populations in the relevant communities;

- o Reliance upon testing techniques entirely inappropriate to the type of exposure that is involved;
- o Reliance upon statistical methods of inquiry which are entirely unsuited to the small and mobile populations residing around waste sites;
- o Contracting with researchers who are known to be biased against finding a connection between toxic pollution and disease;

Studying the wrong types of illnesses, e.g. focusing on death studies where health problems experienced to date have been nonlethal, such as respiratory illnesses or reproductive problems.

of an association between disease and exposure is drawn in studies and assessments which currently cost over \$30 million per year in federal tax monies. The

can earn and justify cutting corners on remedial expenditures needed to ensure that the public is not exposed to toxic pollutants. This, in addition to wasting billions of dollars of taxpayer money, they are jeopardizing public health. More rigorous public health evaluations have indicated that many of these communities should be closed to the public and precautionary measures to reduce public exposures to chemical wastes.

Public Health Threat

of synthetic chemicals in the United States, during

aware that at many locations in water and soil.

Through the 1970's Superfund sites were identified

as hazardous waste sites. In 1980, waste was estimated to be

much as one trillion pounds of toxic chemicals to air, water and land continues today. A

chemicals are emitted to the environment.

A-Massive Environmental

After decades of sharply rising production

the 1980's our society suddenly became

become saturated with chemical wastes.

chemicals to air, water and land continues today. A

chemicals are emitted to the environment.

Many of these chemicals have been shown through testing on animals, by nationwide

epidemiological data, and by workplace exposure data, to pose a serious cancer hazard. They are capable of attacking virtually every organ system of the human body.



epidemiological data shows that they are

Environment has become saturated with man-made chemicals, so has the human population. In apparent correspondence to the exposure trend, incidences of cancer and other diseases are rising rapidly in the American population. Since 1950, the incidence of cancer per 100,000 U.S. citizens rose by 27% between 1960 and 1977, and increased 29% among Americans. The National Cancer Institute has reported a 28 percent increase in the incidence of childhood cancer from 1950 to 1978. Various studies have demonstrated clear associations between childhood cancers and exposure to chemicals, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s. Fertility is decreasing among Americans in their prime reproductive years (the 20's and 30's). In our population, the federal environmental health agencies have been charged with assessing pollution hazards and recommending precautionary measures.

Centers For Disease Control

Superfund Whitewashes

Experts assert that the agency has engaged in whitewashes of population impacts. At Times Beach, Missouri, where citizens were evacuated due to severe impacts, a CDC study concluded that the residents suffered no health effects from dioxin. In contrast to a CDC biased inquiry, other studies of former Times Beach residents showed distinct evidence of immune system abnormalities.

At Love Canal, the site in New York State that first focused the nation's attention on the dire consequences of a CDC mandated study, the agency's initial study was blocked by the residents. CDC sponsored a second study, and birth defects in the community with a defective methodology.

In Jacksonville, Arkansas, where one child died and another was hospitalized, a CDC study failed to link the deaths of two children to a chemical waste disposal site. But CDC narrowed the study of health effects in the community and refused to test the tissues of one hundred stillborn victims which a physician at the Arkansas Children's Hospital believed to contain high levels of toxic chemicals.

Intentionally Misleading Congress, EPA and the Public on Dioxin

At the helm of CDC's

CDC's Center for Environmental Health Efforts has been Dr. Vernon Howard

Dr. Frank has been

regarding dioxin

the scientific community as one of the most toxic man-made chemicals known in the

1980's the safe exposure level is

... recommendations in these...
... have been made by EPA as clean-up activities, and on whether to move...
... them cleaner water... out residents or...

... been... of even...
... its most serious and pervasive defects of the health assessments program na...
... lack of ATSDR contact with local residents. The result has been an appalling absence...
... the most basic understanding of local conditions...
... have manifested into local health problems...
... and reproductive difficulties... stomach, kidney, and liver problems...
... ATSDR's health assessment team, after failing to interview anyone...
... living at the site, concluded that there was no health risk in the community...

ATSDR has also failed to engage in appropriate contact with communities after completing its assessments. For instance, in Texas, ATSDR had concluded in 1984 that the...

Superfund site in Uniontown, Pa.

ATSDR has stated that the effort to protect the health of Uniontown residents

are inconclusive by design.

After ATSDR completes health studies, the agency sometimes conducts more in-depth studies have been plagued with credibility problems on scientific and statistical grounds, making them incapable of drawing any reliable conclusions regarding environmental health problems.

ATSDR has largely relied upon traditional epidemiological approaches in their studies, even though the mathematical approaches employed by epidemiology are not readily adaptable to hazardous waste sites. When applied to the small populations involved in a particular neighborhood around a hazardous waste site, such studies ordinarily result in inconclusive statistical types of analyses do not work when the sample size is small and there are numerous other potentially confounding variables. Even if the sample size is large, the normal case for the population in many small

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activities that are inappropriate or inconsistent with the needs, preferences and concerns of the

affected local public

visit only 165 of the more than 950 health assessments it has conducted; to revisit any of its earlier health studies. By focusing on the

ATSDR plans to re-visit these studies. There are no plans

to visit any of its earlier health studies. By focusing on the most vulnerable communities previously assessed, ATSDR will be able to more accurately assess the hazards to which they are exposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Clarify the primary role of federal environmental health agencies. The primary role of federal environmental health agencies should be to identify situations in which additional precautionary measures are needed to protect public health. Such situations include those in which ATSDR is recommending actions such as relocation and

Restructuring or eliminating environmental health role of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The role of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in environmental health should be limited to the transfer of all environmental health responsibilities from CDC to ATSDR.

End federal funding of studies which are conducted solely to advance research. With the exception of studies which are conducted solely to advance research, federal funding should be provided for community health studies for which specific results should be available.

Revisit past ATSDR assessments and studies. ATSDR should thoroughly revisit all past assessments and health studies conducted by ATSDR.

Expand ATSDR budget and authority, and strengthen ATSDR's role. ATSDR should be established as an independent Federal agency with authority, mandate, budget, and personnel to conduct the relocation of residents in areas contaminated by hazardous substances. ATSDR should be authorized to take such actions as are necessary to protect public health.

Establish health technical assistance grants. Health studies should only be conducted after the health technical assistance grants are available.

Overhaul health assessment and health studies procedures Health assessment and health studies

processes must be overhauled. The fundamental direction of such studies should be to identify and control potentially harmful exposures and local conditions in accordance with precautionary principles to end the need for health assessments and studies should be clarified. The local community's right to veto the undertaking of health studies should be explicitly in federal legislation. Experts utilized in such assessments and studies should be thoroughly scrutinized for biases and their public reputations should be added to the pool of experts available for such studies.

Expand environmental health literacy Environmental health education under A. I. S. C.'s mandate

should be expanded. Congress should establish a community environmental health training program funded by A. I. S. C. and controlled by universities and by public health advocacy groups. The program should be to educate communities on health hazards and their avoidance. The purpose of

sources often find it economically and technically impossible to bring suits due to the high costs of evidence, and the over-reliance by courts on epidemiological studies.

As this report makes clear, such studies, by their very nature, are unlikely to produce conclusive results. They are often expensive and time-consuming, and they often require a large number of people whose diseases are likely to be caused by the chemicals in question. In some cases, such as with asbestos, the latency period between exposure and the onset of disease is so long that it is difficult to establish a link between exposure and disease. In other cases, such as with lead, the link is more direct, but the exposure is often hidden or difficult to measure. In still other cases, such as with PCBs, the exposure is often intermittent and difficult to track. In all cases, the cost of such studies is often prohibitive, especially for individuals or small groups of people who are the most vulnerable to such exposures.

Finally, a national health care program may be the only practical way to eliminate a portion of the injustices suffered in toxic-exposed communities. Many of the people who live in such communities are unable to afford the health care they need, and the lack of available health care together with the high costs of bringing suits often exacerbate the cycle of ill health and financial problems that local residents are unable to escape.

Chapter One

THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

adequately identifying, assessing or ranking exposures and their potential effects on public policy decisions that a margin of error regarding potential health risks from hazardous waste sites. We do not need

"[T]he nation is not hazardous waste site public health. Plans safety be provided exposures to ha

criteria for scientific credibility. We must surely do no less in establishing decision-making. We must surely do no less in establishing decision-making. When the health and safety of life of Americans are at stake

National Research Council
National Academy of Sciences, 1991¹

Since 1940, the annual production of synthetic chemicals has increased tenfold.

required for the first time to disclose the amount of toxic chemicals they discharge to air, water and land. In 1989, according to EPA, 22,650 industrial plants and facilities reported discharging 1.7 billion pounds of toxic chemicals into the atmosphere.

total emissions are actually

far higher, since the 330 hazardous substances covered by the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory do not include more than 500 chemicals regulated under other environmental laws. In addition, many companies are flouting the

to be chemicals regulator
any companies are flouting the

under other environmental laws. In addition, many companies are flouting the

old one analysis has estimated that a more accurate assessment of toxic emissions in the U.S. is about

to know how much is being emitted

impairments seemingly correlated with polluted air, water, or soil.⁷ For

example, a study of cancer in 111 of 125 counties found a pattern c

with four manufacturing industries: paper,

excessive cancers associated

solvents and paints.

Chemicals produced by the

The NRC's conclusion that

we already know the potential severity of chemical hazards from

workplaces. One particularly revealing group of studies relates to death rates

among workers. Some studies show that at least one in 100 workers

Historical Background on the Federal

CIVIL, FEDERAL HEALTH AGENCIES

In case after case, otherwise inexplicable clusters of illness have emerged

near hazardous waste sites. In some cases, these clusters have included miscarriages, birth defects, and cancers as well as respiratory disease, skin disease, and depressed immune systems. No one who lives near a hazardous waste site gets sick because of it. There is strong circumstantial evidence that illnesses derive from toxic exposure.

Connecting toxic pollution with specific clusters of illness is scientifically difficult and politically charged. In an ironic turning of the tables, sick people residing near toxic waste sites are often treated by local officials as if they are mere trouble-makers or publicity hounds; or at best, as victims of randomly occurring illness who seek to pin the blame on the nearest target. Not surprisingly, the victims of these sites often feel that the law's maximum

agencies has a broad mission to monitor public health and conduct education.

It has become involved in environmental health issues through its

Center for Environmental Health from the time of the Love Canal and other early toxic sites.

Congress charged the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund), with assuming a principal role in identifying health problems related to the release of hazardous substances into the environment and to establish public health strategies to prevent or mitigate

such problems. ATSDR's major tasks include conducting health assessments of a Superfund waste sites, developing toxicological profiles of the hazardous

hazardous substances, and educating the public and professionals in regard to

hazardous substances. The agency's current annual budget is \$54.5 million.

In the 1980's first CDC and then ATSDR were cast in the leading

role for the investigation of public health effects of toxic pollution.

The standing of the communities who were investigated the first few

disappointed.

Two fundamentally different tasks may be subsumed under the heading

environmental

professionals to utilize available scientific data to protect the

In this case it is the duty of the scientist to

reduced below an adequate margin of s

populations. The second task is more

science. In this case, it is the job of public health professionals to devise

new methods of studying people and populations.

So far, due to the inapplicability of many assessment techniques or

is done to local populations from pollution sources is fairly weak, and

is frequently incapable of drawing scientifically defensible conclusions.

Unfortunately, our federal public health officials have often tried to combine these two tasks. As a result, the many predictably inconclusive health assessments and studies in local communities have been allowed to misinform public decisions regarding precautionary health protection measures, i.e. to prevent and even discourage appropriate action from being taken to reduce toxic exposures.

The next task of the federal public health officials will be to review the errors of the federal agencies and make recommendations for changes to ensure that the next ten years

The Centers for Disease Control: A Legacy of Environmental

Another CDC study was planned, this time assessing chromosome damage by

few years had passed and the CDC had not yet drawn blood. But by then a

ch a statistical review. Too many residents had moved away from the area, in some cases having been evacuated. CDC was having

any of the money had been spent on a study that would more likely detect

reflective problems. Their efforts did not include a chromosome study and found no abnormal statistics among the residents.

Times Beach

The Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, which published a 1985

report detailing CDC's lack of the other way around. CDC reports the

evacuated, due to the toxic hazard posed by dioxin. In its study of the

contamination area, which resulted from waste oils sprayed on local roads to

and CDC tested 82 people from the area. CDC reported no cases of chloracne (a skin

sure, but many residents in the area showed no abnormal effects from dioxin expo-

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then stored at the same hospital.

the inception of CDC's Center for Environmental Health - Dr. Vernon

Dioxin

st senior post. Scandal

epidemiological specialist with the ISI Research & Training Institute in Boston and former Director of the Massachusetts

significant human disease. Certainly when it comes to hazardous waste site exposure, he has not been open to that possibility.

become routine for... at... abuses which have b

of the most

Dioxin is widely known within the scientific community as one of the most toxic man-made chemicals known in the early 1980's.

Houk arranged for blood tests of 646 Vietnam veterans, selected on the basis of their probable exposure, to look for elevated levels of dioxin in blood.

blood levels. But this was no surprise, since the exposures

None had abnormal

of the veterans tested had nondetectable

were 20 years earlier and higher

ing Health' has been driven clearly and directly by the White House. At times, CDC's weakness in protecting public health has been driven clearly and directly by the White House. A recent example under the Bush Administration involved children's exposure to lead, which can cause severe damage to the developing nervous system.

assessments. The report concluded that the assessments were of questionable

concentrations that may result in adverse health effects.³⁶ The local

groundwater. Almost a year
race Community Action
held a press conference
not to itself. (See page
3.)

not identified on-site contaminants and polluted ground
after the assessment was completed, the Carver Ter
Group learned of its existence and content. They be
describing EPA as "irresponsible" for keeping the re
Study: Texarkana, Texas page 2

particularly deficient at 117 defense-related
and NPL list. U.S. Congressman Gerry
FSD's situation at a congressional hearing in

Deficient
Assessments at
Department of ...

Health assessments have been p
Federal facilities on the Superfu
Slovakia (N. MAN) presented 2

within a
year of the date on which the sites were proposed for the list.

[A 1980 health] assessments were to be performed w

... EPA's NPL Superfund list. Even though some of these sites
have been closed for years and brought up

... Even though some of these sites
have been closed for years and brought up

ATSDR has a fundamental credibility problem because of its subordinate relationships to both CDC and EPA.

CDC and ATSDR function under separate congressional mandates, but they are joined at the top as arms of the Public Health Service. Prior to 1986 when the Superfund law was amended, ATSDR was no more than a CDC

one institutional memory and biases of CDC have simply been transferred into
numerous ATSDR. Because CDC has such a poor reputation with
communities on pollution-related issues, ATSDR has
begun exerting effort to further separate itself from its mother agency.

Agency is another
based on scientific
ATSDR employees

ATSDR's relationship to the Environmental Protection
serious impediment to ATSDR's ability to make decisio
judgments, and to their credibility with the public. Alth

...action of ...
...not entered by governments sponsored studies for ...
...the studies followed with ...
...the ...
...public health officials seldom has provided ...
...communities are often misled into thinking that the insensitive studies funded ...

trichlorethylene through its drinking water supply. Four childhood cancer cases occurred in the neighborhood, twice as many as would be expected if the average number of cases occurred. But according to Dr. David Schottenfeld, who testified in a court case on this situation, an eight fold increase in cancer cases among epidemiologists to declare

epidemiologists to declare that a simple doubling would be needed for the statistical increase to be "significant" in a given population reviewed. This does not mean that the cases in Friendly are not attributable to the chemical exposures; it only means that epidemiologists are by their blunt tools incapable of drawing the correlation. Environmental epidemiology can work, but only where there are large exposed populations or tightly controlled laboratory conditions.

to the problem of sample size in epidemiological studies of community exposures are other confounding variables, to muddy the findings. Add toxic chemicals to these variables, including a lack of detailed information on chemical exposure levels; the presence of multiple chemicals at a single site; or the population to other disease promoters such as cigarette smoke, the movement of people in and out of study areas making study samples incomplete.

and the long lag times that typically result from the slow pace of epidemiology studies at Superfund sites. As a result, until the 1980s, the conclusiveness of a review conducted for the community of North Hampton, New Hampshire, the methodology used in this study is not capable of either proving or disproving a causal relationship between any specific exposure and any disease. See Case Study on North Hampton, New Hampshire.

en in studies where a neighborhood has numerous people exhibiting strong clinical proof of the connection between their toxic exposures and their illnesses. An apologetic statement is included even in the case of North Hampton, New Hampshire.

by a series of studies. The outcome of the proliferation of these "inconclusive" studies is a growing record of equivocating reports. For instance, out of 108 studies by EPA following cancer clusters over 22 years, only 22 were found to be "definitive".

Although various strategies can be employed to improve the quality of epidemiological studies, so far the situation is not being improved. For instance, to solve the problem of keeping track of exposed populations for a long enough time to establish registries, instead of a National Exposure Registry, the law requires the establishment of registries for diseases due to possible toxic effects, is not yet operational.

on statistics such as death statistics, ATSDR

in addition to the use of populatio

Sometimes, serological markers to determine the extent of exposure to the
biological marker is defined by the NRC as any cellular

Misusing

Biological

"clean" blood.

more extreme exposure of this kind of contamination. In an even
more extreme exposure of this kind of contamination, the
experience of her own town of Gray, Maine, where residents had been
exposed to volatile organic compounds in the drinking water. A few
years ago, the town of Gray, Maine, had ended. Federal officials conducted
blood tests to check for volatile compounds. A CDC physician who
administering the tests was asked what he expected to find. He said that he
did not expect to find anything. Give the fact that exposure to the substances
of concern had ended months before, this was of course, quite accurate. It
appears that the blood testing process was being used to give people a "clean
bill of health." This inaccurate blood test might have the appearance of being
"clean" blood.

Under its
Investigator's
conduct health investigations and health ass
agreement program with
23 states by the beginning of

health departments are a poor choice for

However, many of these state



...proactive surveillance project funded by ... in Woburn, Massachusetts. This study is a follow-up to a leukemia cluster that was detected by ... University researchers in the Woburn area in the 1970's and early 1980's. Contaminated wells in Woburn were shut down at that time. Because no additional patients have been diagnosed with leukemia since 1986, a determination was made by ATSDR to look for birth defects and adverse

current exposures. The preliminary two-year report of the Massachusetts ... ATSDR means that ATSDR ... of the ...

...inconclusive design health study has often been ... The review of a ... "Inconclusive by ... the ... design ... water sources ... Translates to ... inconclusive studies are ... to expose the public ...

... Council has stated after review of ATSDR's efforts ... As the National Rese

"We are concerned that populations may be at risk that have not been adequately identified, because of the inadequate program of site... assessment."⁶⁰ Moreover, they stated that while they "are currently unable to answer the question of the overall impact on public health of hazardous wastes. (Until better evidence" is developed, prudent public policy demands that a margin of safety be provided regarding potential health risks. We use the same margin of safety in designing bridges and buildings. We do no less in establishing criteria for scientific research. We must surely hold researchers to a standard that the health and safety of life of Americans are at stake."⁶¹



Health studies in the absence of action recommendations do not adequately ... Studying ... we many ... communities to ... serve communities at risk. Two examples of ... experiences of communities will serve to illustrate this point.

... Kellogg ... a neighborhood where the ... massive lead contamination. ATSDR, CDC and local agencies have monitored ... blood-lead levels in children for over 15 years. In the most ... testing, 50 or 200 children tested were found to have blood lead levels in excess of ten micrograms per deciliter. At this level, lead is known to cause neurological damage and other health problems. Yet despite the continuous

ensure treatment or relocation of the lead-exposed children. Instead, the agency has merely engaged in a data-gathering effort, and has turned a deaf ear to citizens' calls for genuine action to protect health.⁶²

An ATSDR health assessment of the Carver Terrace neighborhood indicated that "Long-term exposures to contaminated soils in the residential area" pose a potential health risk for ingestion and skin absorption of soil contaminants, and that "Groundwater beneath the site is contaminated and would pose a potential health risk if used for potable drinking water."⁶³ The ATSDR assessment told of at least 35 identified on-site contaminants such as benzene, lead, and pentachlorophenol, were detected in sub-surface soil, groundwater, air, and surface of the soil. ATSDR also described 15 off-site contaminants of concern, some of which are also in more than one medium.

state officials to investigate the area's rate of miscarriages, after personally

observing 67 miscarriages out of approximately 193 pregnancies within one

year in 1974. The study was conducted over a 26-month period. Funded by ATSDR, with technical assistance being pro-

vided by SCD's College of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Dr. [redacted]

conducted a health study. The original ATSDR protocol specified door-to-

door interviews by trained professionals. That specification was reworked

to allow for door-to-door interviews by public notices and mailings in the

area. The study was conducted in 1974-1976. The study was conducted in

the area of [redacted] in the state of South Carolina. The study was

conducted in the area of [redacted] in the state of South Carolina. The

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Page 10 of 10

levels in blood samples were higher than national levels. Some individuals were found with inordinately high levels of selenium. ATSDR the majority were "for the most part" within the typical range of urine concentrations. Concerns about risks to the area of a large number of milk and symptoms in the communities remain.

barrels of toxic waste were dumped in the Coakley area in North Hanover, New Hampshire. Under the cover of darkness, residents' well water became severely contaminated. Several residents contracted extraordinarily enlarged organ systems, which led to heart attacks and other organ failures. In 1988, the closest to an actual health study was done by a local resident, who knocked on doors asking her neighbors about their health problems. ATSDR's health assessors knocked on no doors at all. Instead they relied solely upon information gathered by the state, whose own study consisted primarily of an examination of death certificates. The residents cannot understand why ATSDR has passed over their community in choosing where to conduct its in-depth health studies, especially given the fact that their area has the highest cancer rate in the entire state.

to prepare profiles of pollutants' toxicological ATSDR ATSDR is required by law to

SOME STEPS CITIZENS CAN TAKE TO IMPROVE ATSDP

PERFORMANCE OF SUPERFUND SITES

to consider all

petitions filed for health assessments at sites of hazardous materials releases. A petition by an individual or a group requesting a health assessment should include:

- Name, address, and telephone number.
- Organization represented, if applicable.

ATSDR has added a limited way with which it can protect communities of biological markers besides blood and urine. And Public Health Service research assessments.

Despite these marginal improvements, the fundamental shortcomings of ATSDR's research remain unchanged. A lot of the community studies that have not translated into actions. ATSDR's research is not designed to answer the questions of environmental health studies. ATSDR's research continues to be subordinate to EPA and linked to CDC.

The agency has also begun establishing more community advisory panels. However, such panels have been established by ATSDR in the past without actually increasing ATSDR's responsiveness. In Louisiana, one of the communities studied in this report, a community advisory panel. Citizens on the panel made numerous recommendations, which the agency's community advisory panels may be merely advisory, unless these panels are given real power.

How Many Deaths? The sordid record of ATSDR's and CDC's innumerable studies which were inconclusive by design is causing genuine harm to many communities. At the very least, the agency's studies have started many communities to live with the agency's slow and deceptive

Chapter Five:

The Local Expression of Five-Year Studies

JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS

In Jacksonville, Arkansas, a community of 29,877 residents, located 12 miles north of Little Rock, dioxin has been measured in the range that led to EPA's 1983 regulations of Total Dioxin in Missouri. For more than 40 years, three companies had a host of toxic chemicals here - including approximately 100,000 gallons of the "Agent Orange" used to defoliate the jungles of Vietnam. Barriers of toxic waste sit behind the closed plant gates of the base-occupant, Vertac Chemical Corporation.

Citizens complained about ill health, Arkansas. In 1983, after numerous Disease Control. CDC agreed to analyze data on Jacksonville chemicals. At that point, the only other tests that had been conducted were by the Mount Sinai Medical Center. They found "effects of unknown significance" on nerve conduction in 46 percent of the 55 former chemical plant workers tested.

Despite a state recommendation that dioxins be considered an environmental health hazard, CDC examined only EPA's measured dioxin levels in Jacksonville. In July 1985, CDC decided not to undertake a fatty-tissue study.

For further information, reasoning, which was contracted by EPA studies, was that Jacksonville's toxic problem was not as severe as that of Times Beach, Missouri.

An informal survey taken in 1985 by the Arkansas Democrat newspaper of children living near to two Superfund dump-sites in Jacksonville found 10 deaths of the skin, 10 children with serious heart problems, including birth defects, and 10 children with skull defects. One of seven children born with a hole in the heart, and a baby born with part of her brain outside

...to become... Shelton, who...
...the story of errors by the Shelton child's parents and...
...physicians to involve GDC in determining whether...
...Arkansa...

...the then... Shelton... had...
...On September 6, 1985, only hours...
...A week later another child, 17-month-old Jeff Shelton, began having...
...seizures and was rushed to the hospital. The director of pediatric neurology at...

thought we had all the material they needed to get some very definitive answers, and their excuse made no sense to me.

After CDC turned down further testing of the Shelton baby, Dr. Brewster

assays, including the Shelton's, for a \$10,000 fee in the interim. Dr. Brewster

of SIDS victims being preserved in a safe, she says.

Finally, under prodding from Arkansas doctors and health officials, CDC did control groups of 100 children from Jacksonville and Conway, a town 30

miles away. The study did not show substantially higher levels of

Dr. Brewster then asked state health officials if they could obtain CDC's

urine or the Jacksonville urine, but her request was

by CDC that the remaining volumes of

were too small to test, says Dr. Brewster.

Paul Connett, a biochemist at New York's St. Lawrence University, b

one of the stains and the autopsy always makes it clear the

from dioxin or related chemicals. And once that can be shown, it's a who

TEXARKANA, TEXAS

About a mile from the Texas-Arkansas state line and approximately one and a half miles west of downtown Texarkana, a city of 33,000, lies a

known as the Carver Terrace Subdivision. Its citizens are all residential area known as the Carver Terrace Subdivision. Its citizens are all

, their family incomes averaging between \$10,000 and \$20,000 annually. When a business consortium

called Carver Terrace, Inc. purchased these 6 single-family homes on the north side. The neighborhood has existed since 1964.

black

74

Terrace - and for over fifty

years had taken place on

these 62 acres. EPA summarizes the history: In 1910 the National Lumber and Creosote Company began operating a wood treatment facility at this site.

In 1938 the land and the wood treatment facility were sold to the Wood

Preserving Corporation, which was eventually acquired by Koppers Company, J.

Koppers Company had used many creosote wood preservatives

they closed the facility and sold the land.

terrace's beginnings

E. "Sonny" Fields, who has lived there since Carver's

three years after Koppers departed, remembers: There was always a smell

All over this vicinity, even in the outlying areas. It gets strong at times.

What kind of smell? Creosote, but nobody knew

sick back in the earlier days never knew what was wrong, or the cause, until

these test results began to leak out. The first test

made public that was before 1980.

EPA recounts: In the early 1980's, the State of Texas

found that soil and ground water were contaminated

used to preserve wood, pentachlorophenol (PCP).

as and Koppers Company

with chemicals commonly

arsenic and creosote in

by some

Superfund program

Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the site, to place clean soil and sod in the yards of some homes in the Carver Terrace subdivision to prevent residents from being exposed to contaminated soil while the site was being studied.

company agreed to conduct a Remedial Investigation and

RI/FS) of the site. The RI determined the types, amounts

contaminants...

The Koppers Company

Feasibility Study (

and location of con

8, after RI/FS completion, EPA selected Markedon and

to monitor and treat contaminated soils on the site and prevent

from human exposure to contaminated soils below the

In September 198

by the state

additional risk of car

ground surface

Around the same time, Roy Irwin of the Fort Worth office of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Commission, wrote a 19-page letter to EPA after visiting the Carver Terrace site and reviewing EPA documents. Irwin noted serious flaws in

EPA's \$8-million study that could have resulted in an overestimation of the

long-term hazards posed by contaminants.

what is supposed to protect me and my family?"

For the health assessment required under Superfund, ATSDR relied largely on EPA data about the extent of the contamination. ATSDR also came to

Carver Terrace in 1988, though they didn't really talk to the residents. In fact, the health assessment was divided into two parts: nervous system disorders, respiratory problems, cancer, heart problems, kidney, liver and skin disorders, and depression. The health agency's 10-page assessment was published on April 10, 1989. But nobody in Carver Terrace heard about it.

Almost a year later, on March 23, 1990, local environmentalists called a press conference. Linda James, speaking for the Carver Terrace Community Action Group, called EPA "irresponsible" for not informing the community about the

ATSDR report which proves beyond a doubt... residents of Carver Terrace are being poisoned every day, the year round.⁷⁸

Roger Meacham, the spokesman for EPA's Region VI office in Dallas, responded: "We certainly have not kept this report secret. It has been a matter of public record and available to anyone who requested it since the day of

however, which was that neither EPA nor ATSDR seemed to have made the slightest effort to let the people of Carver Terrace know what the health assessment contained. Or even that it had been published at all.

According to Meacham, the ATSDR report simply concluded that it had been saying all along that there is no evidence of imminent or substantial endangerment to citizens in the subdivision.⁷⁹ But a close examination

of the residential area pose a potential health risk for... to contaminated soils in... Ground water beneath the site is contaminated a health risk if used for potable (drinking water) purposes.⁸¹

identified on-site contaminants... e of these, such as soil, groundwater, air and... pentachlorobiphenyl were detected in sub-surface... one medium. Potentials found to be susceptible... of them also more than

substances at concentrations that may result in adverse health effects.

sonny reus has kept a record in Cancer Terrace since
1985. He has counted 26.

the... of chemicals...

ences are clustered among the chemical plants... state, and...

As...
...resident of St. Gabriel

ever a prisoner escapes from one of the prisons, pursuit on horseback...

and in leaps is swift and relentless... the effect of the leak...

and often among them are... Chemical...

...agents... In 1985 the figures...

The original protocol specified door to door interviews by trained professionals. That specification was jettisoned in favor of convenience

machines who were then interviewed over the phone. Volunteers by notice and phone by college students from local campuses. Thus the accuracy of the report was cast in doubt from the beginning. In the words of Jim Centry,

"They [the people of St. Gabriel] are not easily involved. For the miscarriage

accurate one hundred percent community participation was reported to be a

to data. Their survey to which I am referring is a survey of 24 US and people

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experts sitting at a table and

community. There were all these federal medical resources that would have been available.

...the answer is to suggest it is a problem, is I think unconscionable when it's not at all.

Vicky Atrova has been with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and EPA in Washington, D.C. while in the DEQ she said higher incidence of cancer around high risk point sources, also spontaneous abortions and miscarriages. ... report is necessarily going to be inconclusive, that there really is scientifically it hasn't been solved.

NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

...left

...to be stuck here with no help, says a woman who raised a family for those years on Lafayette Terrace in North Hampton, New Hampshire, a street adjacent to the Superfund site known as the Cookie Landfill. Her attitude is typical of the residents of that street, who feel they were neglected and alone to deal with a catastrophe.

...surface layer had been largely scraped

...Originally the Cookie Landfill was used as a dump before the landfill operation began, the

...town of North Hampton stated the landfill would be for household refuse only

...away from the town of North Hampton, another town was sanitary landfill. When building a new town, the town of North Hampton stated the landfill would be for household refuse only.

...at night with a friend. The barrels were marked "corrosive" and had little triangles on them.

A woman living on adjacent Lafayette Terrace (who requested anonymity) said she first saw the barrels when she was out walking and staggered in saw them by going up the street at night with a friend. The barrels were marked "corrosive" and had little triangles on them. It wasn't long before the residents of Lafayette Terrace began to notice problems with their water. In 1975 the first complaints

the problem was bacterial. They then began boiling their water, thereby

They had first revealed the presence of possible carcinogens in the

Lafayette Terrace water. Incredibly, the people most concerned were not

officially notified. Instead, Ruth Martin, who had requested the test, was told

that she should go around and inform her neighbors. The Water Department,

stating that there was "the presence of significant levels of industrial

chemicals" in the water, did notify the North Hampton Board of Selectmen.

At this time the Water Department also urged the extension of town water to

Lafayette Terrace. An order followed to shut down its contaminated wells.

With no water at all, the residents tried to use local schools and fire stations

for water sources and for hygienic purposes. They were told that they could

use the fire department for emergency use. They were told that they could

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these [chronic health] risks would be expected to be very small but not nonexistent." Again, the recipients of the letter were not reassured.

Then in 1988 came two studies that the residents of Lafayette Terrace believed would benefit them: there was substance to their complaints. One

of the New Hampshire Division of Public Health, surveyed cancer incidence around the Coakley Landfill. The other study was a health assessment of the area. Both studies were conducted in 1988 and apparently reached the same conclusions: no health problems.

Martha Bailey, a member of the National Toxic Campaign Fund Board of Directors, stated that the study was requested by Glassboro, New Jersey, a member of the National Toxic Campaign Fund Board of Directors. She said that the study was used to prove or disprove a causal relationship between any specific exposure and cancer. The state study consisted of a door-to-door survey of 1000 residents in the State of New Hampshire, thus excluding the death of anyone who had gone, for example, to the nearby and renowned medical facilities.

What good the survey did. When I saw the state health study, I couldn't believe what I was reading. It did. When I saw the state health study, I couldn't believe what I was reading. It did. When I saw the state health study, I couldn't believe what I was reading. It did. When I saw the state health study, I couldn't believe what I was reading. It did.

Martha Bailey comments: "I'm very disappointed in the state study, and I'm even more disappointed in the fact that ATSDR did not do a full study but instead performed simply an assessment. They haven't gone around and asked people about illnesses in their families, or what was bothering them. The state study was just a survey of New Hampshire residents. I don't know if they used information that the state gathered."

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HOPE, MAINE

Hope, Maine, by Dr. Ray Esposito. Dr. Esposito purchased a part of the land from the family of Carolle Lamer. In the deed for the five acres purchased

that covenant was eventually broken with a vengeance.

By 1960 built a recovery unit for solvents from

by Dr. Esposito on the

ed to provide capacity to handle the reclaiming

other companies in addition to Chemclean.

unit at the site in 1981 to destroy the residuals

of the site

was repeatedly

Chemclean, another company owned and operated

recovery unit was soon expanded

and recycling of solvents from

fluidized-bed incinerator was

operations

Beginning in 1970 and continuing for years Union Chemical

cited by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) for

flagrant violations of its several operating licenses. They found barrels of

hazardous waste, some of them rusted and dented, stacked four high with the

In December of 1979, some of the neighbors, led by Carolie Larner, had forced the town of Hope to hold a public meeting. They wanted to know exactly what was going on at Union Chemical. Why did the air around the plant smell so badly and why had there lately been the construction and use of large boilers? Until this time, the community had believed what they had been told about Union Chemical; that the plant was engaged in the manufacture of paint removers.

At the town meeting, they discovered for the first time that Union Chemical was receiving its own used paint removers as well as solvents, paint removers and other hazardous wastes from other sources. That was a surprise they learned that some in the town government were not as ignorant of the activities at Union Chemical as they were. Also present at the meeting was a man named Clifford Goodall, who identified himself as an attorney for EPA. Under

questioning from citizens, Goodall looked a little better EPA, actually in the employ of Ray Esposito, owner of Union Chemical. He was not an attorney, but was

better organized themselves. Right after Christmas, neighbors decided they had

organized Citizens of Hope (CCH) to fight the incinerator. At first CCH worked at the town level. When Union Chemical applied for an incinerator, CCH managed to force the application to a public hearing and initially blocked the permit, though it was later granted.

When the town government could do nothing within the town, CCH moved on

... would omit people who died in nursing

... stance, by their meanness

... place these people's deaths would be recorded as no dying

... of the notification system

... they also did not conduct any study

... the release of toxic gases by the death of

... In coal mines workers are alerted

... the canaries which they would put into the mines in long, narrow, masonry shafts

... may have served as the equivalent of a canary. One day, said a Larner

... noticed that the incinerator was putting out something strong, which was

... putting nichols' needles' T-shirts and burning their skin. When she

... returned home, she found that seven of her young, mallard

... mother were all dead. One of the ducks was sent to lab for an autopsy, the lab

... listed poisoning as cause of death. The lab tested the ducks' feed and found

... no contamination there. On another instance, a sheep died in the same sudden

... manner.

ATSDR officials seemed initially interested in the situation with the ducks, but

... due to Union Chemical. They said that if the citizens wanted to prove that

... the deaths were due to Union Chemical, the citizens

... should themselves get

... the deaths were due to Union Chemical, the citizens

... veterinarians to certify each death as due to chem

... unreliable. They sounded responsive when they first came to town, taking

... other information. They also

... fore as well being made against people who

... spoke up

... to Larner the agency

... Yet, when the ATSDR reports came out, accord

you can't prove it.

to be in there to prove that there's no effect or that y

CHAPTER SIX

Chapter Six

Conclusions and Recommendations

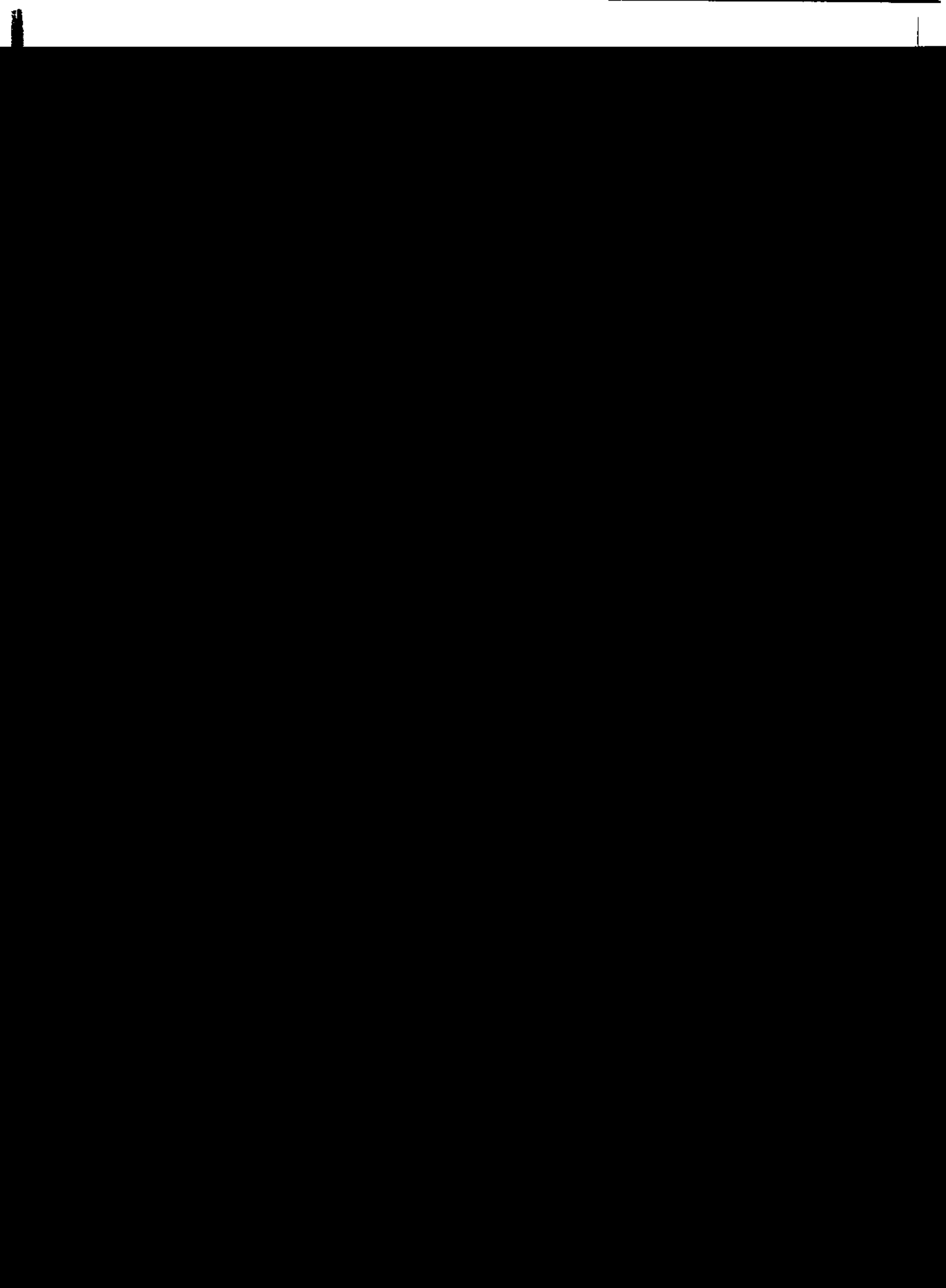
THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH: AN URGENT PROMISE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE

environmental health programs, we have identified extensive deficiencies in the way these programs are conducted. There have been drastic deficiencies in agency structure and leadership, in responsiveness to local communities, and in the manner in which public health investigations are conducted. Our recommendations to remedy these continuing deficiencies are set forth below.

The federal government's environmental health agencies were established to aid communities at risk. But instead of serving the people for whom they were created, the agencies have been virtually throwing away millions of dollars in resources and lives. Inconclusive findings are entirely predictable even before the studies are implemented.

These predictable meaningless studies have become the basis of public communities where serious toxic-related health epidemics are suffered or in excess. Instead of making the regulatory action to reduce contamination and exposure, they have increased the suffering and delay in numerous communities.

Despite the dreadful record of our national environmental health agencies, there remains a pressing demand for a genuinely helpful science of



Lead in particular Vernon Hawk, the director of the Center for Environmental and Occupational Health, have appeared from time to time to be biased against the Center. The Center's role in the future should be to determine whether the agency can do its job credibly. If it cannot be cleaned up, the transfer of all environmental health responsibilities from CDC to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare should be considered.

OVERHAUL OF HEALTH STUDIES PROCEDURES

End funding of health studies which are inconclusive or inconclusive by design. No environmental health studies should be funded in the future unless it is determined that the study design will make it plausible that the study would find an effect. For instance, if the size of a community is so small that results would only emerge in a study which found a rate of occurrence of a disease significantly greater than the normal population's occurrence of a disease, preliminary evidence gathering efforts should be made to determine whether there is any probability of detecting disease near that level prior to undertaking a full-blown epidemiology study. For small communities, health studies should only be conducted if the community receives technical assistance grants received under the Environmental Health Studies Act. For a second option, legislation to create a program of Health Technical Assistance Grants should be passed. The grants should be available to allow local residents to seek technical advice independent of CDC and to review health matters with a view to reviewing health matters and to ascertain whether health studies should be conducted. The grants should be made available prior to any decision to fund a health study. The technical advice provided under such a grant is essential to allow a community group to decide whether it wishes to conduct a health study.

to occur and what type of study they will support. A citizens' group which has already received assistance from a grant should be entitled to receive assistance from another grant.

Overhaul of Health Assessments Procedures
ATSDR's health assessment process must be overhauled to specify:

1) The kinds of data required for a health assessment. The law should require ATSDR officials to speak with people residing in the community that is being assessed, and to secure all available public health and environmental data whenever that would be appropriate in view of the types of releases.

2) The uses of health assessments: A health assessment review of available data regarding a site of such assessments should be limited to exposure and determining whether the current or future exposure to hazardous substances warrants immediate measures such as relocation or alternative water supplies which should be advised to residents as to possible medical consequences. The law should provide for providing information which can be utilized by

potential emergency circumstances which may spread hazardous substances, such as earthquakes or human activities.

substances, such as asbestos, and prescribing measures to prevent harm from such contingencies. In contrast, the law should

utilized as the final word on whether a site presents a health hazard to the community, nor to require the use of remedial measures.

Health Assessments at RCRA Sites
conducted by ATSDR at RCRA Sites

The law should provide that at RCRA sites, a health assessment must be conducted by ATSDR if citizens petition the agency to conduct such an assessment.

Environmental Health Literacy

and exposed communities. Congress should establish a scientific environmental health training program to be funded by ATSDR and conducted by universities and environmental

The purpose of the trainings should be to educate communities on the health hazards presented by hazardous substances and state programs relating to hazardous waste sites and the potential

limitations of health assessments and studies.

Federal legislation should require that all medical and public health students

complete at least one course in environmental

health during their professional training as well as all other medical

education

courses of environmental health

ATSDR created in 1988 should provide comprehensive health and safety information for which any reputable studies have indicated to be caused by the named

Chemical Profiles

Agency from involvement in appraisal of the safety of proposed facilities such as waste management

facilities

entirely separate from ATSDR's

their existing power to recommend action by EPA or local health

ATSDR makes a recommendation to EPA there should be a mandated

ATSDR should follow up on ATSDR recommendations

The ATSDR budget for fiscal year 1990 should be at least double current

\$50 million. This should include an initial allotment of \$10 million for the health technical assistance program. The registry segment

advisory board to provide such accountability would include hearings or presentations by people from the communities affected; use of own experts; or having peer review panel advise citizens

Citizens Advisory Panel

spending - i.e. \$100 million instead of the current \$50 million. This should include an initial allotment of \$10 million for the health technical assistance program and \$5 million for a community training program. ATSDR should also be expanded budgetarily.

ATSDR should immediately create a citizens' advisory board to provide such accountability to the grassroots. Some elements of such a board should include: hearings or presentations by people from the communities affected; use of own experts; or having peer review panel advise citizens

Assessments and Health Studies

to discuss the
will take to address

ATSDR Officials
Should Conduct
Meetings With
Communities
Studied In This
Report

representatives of the communities studied in this report
concerns raised and responsive actions that the agency
them.

Examining ATSDR's current performance
Congress should conduct hearings regarding

- o Examination of the reason why ATSDR and CDC continue to engage in health studies which are inconclusive by design.

ATSDR's relationship in general and specifically in relation to
Uniontown, Ohio Superfund site.

The need for ATSDR to revisit health studies
conducted during 1980

Biases displayed by CDC and Vernon Houk including the admitted
manipulation of data regarding Agent Orange by Dr. Houk in previous

well as an overall inquiry into the issue of dioxin

Exposure to dioxin
dioxin exposures, and
deregulation.

citizens groups, and must also be invited to
participate in the hearings and to address other issues raised in the hearings.

Other issues as raised by local
communities, and a draft of the recommendations

recommendations contained in

the report should be drafted to embody the

report and to address other issues raised in the hearings.

SYSTEMIC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS DEMAND SYSTEMIC SOLUTIONS

at the environmental health

often been with
toxic chemical

that in the past, and that the program's main policy of not
to deal with the need to correct the fundamental
of wastes we have observed

vention

and exposure of local populations
on health care than anything else
other than basic living expenses. More money is spent by businesses
work time by employees of health purposes, and for health insurance
ed expenses. Establishing a national policy
ity laws, as well as liability laws applicable to
and victims. Many workers who
ed through exposure to chemicals in the workplace and that
our recourse, due to the long latency periods from the time of
e onset of diseases. Neighbors of pollution sources often find it
e to bring suits due to the high costs
by courts on epidemiological studies. As
ies by their statistical nature, are
at waste sites.

In addition to the specific problems identified
agencies, we have identified patterns that are common to many
environmentally impacted communities. These patterns most
poverty and unemployment accompanied by indisci

A national shift toward pollution prevention is needed to reduce the use of
toxic chemicals and the generation of the toxic wastes. Some chemicals which
National legislation to amend the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act can help
thereby end the cycle of waste production
More money is spent by families each year

Conservation and Recovery Act can help
thereby end the cycle of waste production
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Worker compensation and disability
and Neighbors who have
Compensation since health is harm
Systems they are witho
exposure to
economically and technically impossible
evidence and the over-reliance by ma
this report has documented, such stud
unlikely to produce conclusive results

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releases; or (b) Establishing a right to medical care for people whose diseases are likely to be due to the chemicals to which they were exposed. The presence of exposures to certain chemicals combined with contracting of diseases which are closely linked to exposure would trigger the right to care.

Examples might include ensuring treatment for bladder cancer for people

exposed to betanaphthylamine, and for birth defects or leukemia where there

was exposure to trichlorobethylene. Such proposals should be developed

exposed to betanaphthylamine

was exposure to trichlorobethylene

further by Congress

Millions of Americans have no health insurance or access to regular health care; toxic exposures tend to be the worst in lower income communities, where the need for such resources is most acute. In many of the communities

National Health Insurance

Footnotes

1. National Research Council, Environmental Epidemiology: A Review of the Literature, National Academy Press, 1991, p. 21.

2. Barnaby J. Feder, "In the Clutches of the Superfund Mess," New York Times, June 6, 1991, sec. 3, pp. 1, 6.

3. Keith Schneider, "Toxic Pollution Shows Drop in '89," New York Times, May 17, 1991, p. A32.

4. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1991.

5. Peter Montague, "Earthly Necessities: A New Environmentalism for the 1990's," The Workbook, Vol. 16, No. 2, Summer 1991, p. 58.

6. The Workbook, *ibid*, P. 59.

7. See generally, National Research Council, Environmental Epidemiology, National Academy Press, 1991.

8. Dr. Joseph P. Fraumeni, "Geographic Patterns of Lung Cancer: Industrial Correlations," American Journal of Epidemiol. Vol. 103 (1976) pp. 539-550, cited in Hazardous Waste News, #274, Feb. 26, 1992.

9. It is essential, in order to prevent our population from being treated as "guinea pigs," to include consideration of the results of tests on animals in appraising the potential effect on human health. While a few scientists, most of whom consult for polluting industries, have attempted to challenge the relevance of animal studies to human exposure situations, the majority of public health professionals continue to assert that animal studies are one of the most viable means of determining which substances are harmful to humans. For instance,

See National Research Council, id. at 46, and that all 52 compounds known to cause cancer in humans also produce cancer in animals (and Strayer S and Lazarus M., Epidemiology and Toxicology, 1991, p. 64).

10. Robert A. Anderson, "Mortality among U.S. Adults," Health, Vol. 24 (Nov/Dec 1991) pp. 237-248, cited in Hazardous Waste News No. 273, Feb. 19, 1992.

11. U.S. National Cancer Institute, Cancer Statistics Review, NIH Pub. #90-274.

12. The Workbook, *ibid*, P. 60.

13. Office of Technology Assessment report BA-266, December 1985, pp. 34 and 146.

14. Office of Technology Assessment, report BA-436, pp. 55 and 272.

15. New York Times, July 16, 1991, pp. 1 and 30. See also S. F. S. and W. H. M.

20. Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, Center for Disease Control, "Clear Up, Deceit and Confusion," 1985, p. 9.

21. R.E. Hoffman, et al, 1986, "Health effects of long-term exposure to 2,3,7,8-tetrachloro-p-dioxin," JAMA, 255, 2031-2038.

22. Author's interview with Dr. Major Brewster, director of Arkansas Children's Hospital metabolic laboratory, 1988.

23. Interview with the author, June 1991.

24. Time Magazine, July 23, 1990.

25. Ibid.

26. Kogan, M.D. and R.W. Clapp, "Soft tissue sarcoma mortality among Vietnam Veterans. I. Epidemiol. 17:39-43 (1988).

27. Associated Press article, May 25, 1991.

28. Keith Schneider, "U.S. Officials Say Dangers of Dioxin Were Exaggerated," New York Times, August 15, 1991, pp. D23.

29. Richard Clapp, Summary of Activities, October 10, 1991.

30. Philip J. Hitts, "White House Shuns Key Role on Lead Exposure," New York Times, August 24, 1991.

31. Health assessments are defined as "preliminary assessments of the potential for human health posed by individual sites and the nature and extent of contamination, the existence of potential pathways of human exposure to hazardous substances, air emissions, and food chain contamination, the size and number of potentially exposed or susceptible populations that may be present, and the potential susceptibility of the population to hazardous substances, and the comparison of existing or potential health effects associated with the site to recommended exposure or tolerance limits for such substances." 42 U.S.C. 9604 (i)(6)(E).

32. Ibid.

33. General Accounting Office, Superfund Public Health Assessments Incomplete and of Questionable Value, August 1991.

34. ATSDR, 1991.

35. EHN interview with ATSDR's Barry Johnson, May 1991.

36. ATSDR Health Assessment of Superfund Sites, 1991.

37. Gerrit Sikorski, Employee Health and Safety at Federal Hazardous Waste Sites, Statement, House Civil Service Committee, September 18, 1990.

38. Author's interview with Dr. Paigen, April 22, 1991.

39. Author's interview with Dr. Richard Bird, Jr., internal medicine resident, Boston City Hospital, former director of Massachusetts Source Reduction Program, March 1991.

40. Citizen's Clearinghouse report on CDC, pp. 4-5.

41. Author's interview with Dr. Clapp, March 1991.

42. Authors' interview with Stephen Lester, Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, March 1991.

43. Author's interview with Dr. Ozonoff, March 1991.

44. ATSDR response to Environmental Health Network

45. Authors' interview with Henry Cole, Clean Water Action Project, March 1991.

46. Authors' interview with Henry Cole, Clean Water Action Project, March 1991.

59. Author's interview with Dr. Richard Clapp, March 1991.

60. NRC, Ibid., p. 20.

61. Ibid., p. 20.

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74. EPA Superfund Project Update, Koppers Texarkana Site, April 1990.

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79. Ibid. Emphasis added.

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