



Toxic Times

A weekly recap of the top stories on toxics in Michigan and beyond.

News Highlights from November 3 – November 10, 2008

MICHIGAN NEWS

Wastewater plant to pay fine, make improvements

The Bay City Times, Monday, November 10, 2008

The Harbor Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant, which discharges into Lake Huron, has agreed to pay \$28,700, reimburse the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for enforcement costs, and update the plant's Industrial Pretreatment Program. The plant has not had such a program in effect for the past 10 years and has issued industrial user permits in excess of what a city sewer ordinance allows.

http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/11/wastewater_treatment_plant_to.html

Lead-free house becomes a safe haven

The Muskegon Chronicle, Sunday, November 9, 2008

A Muskegon home containing lead-based paint was repaired and the paint replaced with grant money from the City of Muskegon Safe Housing Program. The federally funded program is active across Muskegon in an attempt to remove lead dangers from homes around the city.

http://www.mlive.com/chronicle/news/index.ssf/2008/11/sun_home_becomes_safe_haven.html

NATIONAL NEWS

Prescription drugs can deliver high doses of phthalates

Environmental Health News, Monday, November 10, 2008

For millions of people, medicines are a little-known major source for phthalates. Scientists warn 'of the potential for high delivered doses of phthalates to vulnerable segments of the population, particularly pregnant women or young children.'

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/prescription-drugs-can-deliver-high-doses-of-phthalates>

U.S. court reinstates Bhopal water pollution case

Reuters, Monday, November 3, 2008

A lawsuit contending that thousands of people in India were exposed to polluted drinking water after the 1984 Union Carbide toxic gas disaster in Bhopal was reinstated by a U.S. appeals court, which claimed that a lower court improperly threw out the case.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE4A25LO20081103>

Infant formula wars

The San Francisco Chronicle, Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Scientists dissatisfied with the Food and Drug Administration's role in failing to regulate bisphenol A asked several infant formula producers to repackage their products without the chemical.

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/chrongreen/detail?&entry_id=32269

Why small plastic particles may pose a big problem to the oceans

Environmental Science and Technology, Wednesday, November 5, 2008

New evidence shows that marine organisms can uptake and concentrate plastic particles and their toxic components from pollutants and refuse washed out to sea. Such concentrations may further damage marine food chains, including harvested stocks.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/sample.cgi/esthag/asap/html/es802970v.html>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Researchers raise alarm after chemical leak found in common plastic

Toronto Globe and Mail, Friday, November 7, 2008

Medical researchers at the University of Alberta put out a warning after two chemical components of polypropylene—one of the most commonly used plastics in the world—were found to be so biologically active that they ruined the results of a drug experiment.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081107.CHEMICAL07//TPStory/Environmenthttp://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081107.CHEMICAL07//TPStory/Environment>