



Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from October 27 – November 2, 2008

MICHIGAN NEWS

Ash landfills at Consumers Energy are leaking toxics into Saginaw Bay

The Bay City Times, Thursday, October 30, 2008

Two massive ash landfills that hold the concentrated residue of coal burned at a power plant in Bay County have been leaking toxics into Saginaw Bay for years. The Lone Tree Council, a Bay City area environmental group, uncovered the issue while combing through state records for plans for a new 800-megawatt power plant at a Consumers Energy facility in Hampton Township.

http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/10/ash_landfills_at_consumers_ene.html

Refrain from vote on chemical, U-M toxicologist told

The Detroit Free Press, Thursday, October 30, 2008

The government has cleared Martin Philbert, a prominent outside adviser and University of Michigan professor, of conflict-of-interest allegations involving his findings on whether a chemical used to make plastic food containers poses a health risk.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20081030/NEWS06/81030015/1008/NEWS>

Fenton Township voters to consider spraying for mosquitoes

The Flint Journal, Wednesday, October 29, 2008

Voters in Fenton Township will get the chance to vote on a mosquito control program, a part of the local budget for over two decades. However, Township Board member Lorraine Zimmer is questioning whether using pesticides is the best method of controlling the insects.

http://www.mlive.com/flintjournal/index.ssf/2008/10/fenton_township_voters_to_cons.html

Mercury spill cleanup underway at state prison near Ann Arbor

The Ann Arbor News, Thursday, October 30, 2008

Cleanup of a mercury spill is underway at the Huron Valley Men's Facility in Pittsfield Township, officials said. Officials are uncertain where the mercury, totaling several ounces, originated.

http://www.mlive.com/annarbornews/news/index.ssf/2008/10/mercury_spill_cleanup_underway.html

NATIONAL NEWS

Advisors: FDA decision on safety of BPA ‘flawed’

USA Today, Saturday, November 1, 2008

A Food and Drug Administration advisory board voted Friday to say that the agency ignored critical evidence suggesting that a controversial plastic chemical bisphenol A, or BPA, could harm children. The FDA’s science board, composed of outside experts, voted unanimously to endorse a report finding major flaws in the agency’s decision on BPA.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-10-31-bpa-fda_N.htm

Coalition warns of lawsuit on bay

The Washington Post, Wednesday, October 29, 2008

A group of environmentalists, watermen, and federal politicians will announce today that it plans to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for botching the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay, seeking to accelerate a 25-year-old program that has left the famous estuary just as troubled.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/28/AR2008102803388.html>

From California to Denver: Ozone woes become regional

The Denver Post, Saturday, November 1, 2008

Ozone pollution—once seen as mainly an urban problem—is spreading across the interior West from rural Wyoming to suburban Phoenix. Levels of the corrosive gas that can impair breathing have exceeded federal health standards in Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado.

http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_10878107

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China’s tainted food inquiry widens amid worries over animal feed

The New York Times, Friday, October 31, 2008

Chinese regulators said Friday that they were widening their investigation into contaminated food amid growing signs that the toxic industrial chemical melamine has leached into the nation’s animal feed supplies, posing health risks to consumers throughout the world.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/01/world/asia/01china.html?_r=1&oref=slogin