



Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from September 14-20, 2008

MICHIGAN NEWS

Energy plan paves way for new power plant in Hampton Township

Bay City Times, Friday, September 19, 2008

An energy package passed in Lansing on Thursday will go a long way toward wooing a new power plant to Bay County, local legislators say. The legislation also is expected to lure businesses that specialize in alternative energy and energy efficiency to the Thumb and other parts of Michigan. The legislation also requires utilities to get 10 percent of their electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar by 2015, about triple the current percentage; and meet an additional 5.5 percent of Michigan's annual electricity demands through energy efficiency in the same time frame.

http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/09/energy_plan_paves_way_for_new.html

Energy company still wants to drill for gas in Mason Tract

Bay City Times, Friday, September 19, 2008

More than five years after it first applied for a permit, Savoy Energy of Traverse City still seeks to drill for natural gas underneath the Mason Tract wilderness area in Crawford County. The Sierra Club and other environmental groups filed suit against the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in 2005, seeking to make Savoy move its wellhead a mile further from the tract, to reduce impacts on anglers and others who use the Au Sable River for recreation.

http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/09/energy_company_still_wants_to.html

NATIONAL NEWS

Bisphenol A poses disease risk for adults, study says

Toronto Globe & Mail, Tuesday, September 16, 2008

An influential new study linking bisphenol A to heart disease and diabetes is raising the possibility that Health Canada erred in April when it concluded that the chemical used to make plastic poses no risk to adults. The new research, the largest investigation to date on the chemical's possible effects in humans, found that those with higher exposures to bisphenol A had 2.9 times the odds of having cardiovascular disease and 2.4 times the odds of having adult-onset diabetes, compared with those with lower exposures.

http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080916.wvbad_bisphenol0916/VideoStory/Front/home?pid=RTGAM.20080916.wbisphenol0916

Chemical industry to fight new proposal

Politico.com, Thursday, September 18, 2008

The chemical industry lobby is gearing up to fend off a broad legislative overhaul that marks a significant shift in the way that chemicals are regulated in America. “The environment seems to have changed in our favor,” said Rep. Hilda L. Solis (D- Calif.), vice chairman of the House Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. “Consumers are expecting the federal government to do something. They don’t want to hear about it at the last minute, after their children have been exposed.”

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0908/13548.html>

With federal disagreement over bisphenol A, what's a parent to do?

USA Today, Sunday, September 14, 2008

The Food and Drug Administration — which will hold a public meeting about BPA Tuesday — says children's current exposure levels to BPA are safe. Although the FDA considered only exposures from food surfaces such as plastic bottles and the linings of metal formula cans, BPA is used in many products, from water pipes to the coatings on bottle caps. Many people wonder why the two agencies — which are both part of the Department of Health and Human Services — have drawn such different conclusions. The differences stem partly from the controversial way that the FDA judge scientific papers.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-09-14-bisphenol-danger_N.htm

INTERNATIONAL

Calcium in pregnancy shields fetus from lead risks

Reuters Health, Thursday, September 18, 2008

Taking calcium supplements during pregnancy reduces a woman's blood levels of lead, and thus the danger that her fetus will be exposed to the toxic metal, new research conducted in Mexico shows.

<http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2008/09/18/eline/links/20080918elin005.html>