



Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from April 8, 2009 – April 14, 2009

MICHIGAN NEWS

Michigan companies see “green chemistry” blossoming

Capital News Service via Great Lakes Echo, Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Green chemistry—the development, manufacturing, and use of a chemical in ways that reduce or eliminate hazardous substances—is taking off in Michigan, providing opportunities both for environmental stewardship and economic growth.

<http://greatlakesecho.org/2009/04/08/michigan-companies-see-green-chemistry-blossoming/http://greatlakesecho.org/2009/04/08/michigan-companies-see-green-chemistry-blossoming/>

Local sites languish on toxic list

The Holland Sentinel, Monday, April 13, 2009

Toxic sites listed in Michigan have not been getting removed after remediation because inspection and re-evaluation rates have dropped. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality—the agency charged with maintaining the list—claims that with reduced funding, more of the remaining capital has been going towards clean up rather than updating the list through routine check-ups.

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/x711737311/Local-sites-languish-on-toxic-list>

NATIONAL NEWS

Environmental groups urging Obama admin to support int’l ban of pesticide

Greenwire via The New York Times, Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Environmental groups are asking the Obama administration to support the international phase out of the pesticide lindane. Though the U.S. is not a party to the international treaty used for the phase out, its support as an observer would still be a boon.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/04/08/08greenwire-groups-urging-obama-admin-to-support-intl-lind-10469.html>

Health agency covered up lead harm

Salon, Friday, April 10, 2009

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report in 2004 that claimed a small increase in blood lead levels was possible from contaminated water. However, missing data and a more recent—and unpublicized—study reveal that lead contamination in water can have severe effects.

http://www.salon.com/env/feature/2009/04/10/cdc_lead_report/

Coffee controversy brews on

Environmental Health News, Tuesday, April 14, 2009

New research on mice shows that caffeine, if absorbed at a crucial stage in embryo development, may have adverse effects on heart tissue formation and function later in life.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/prebirth-caffeine-exposure-affects-heart/>

Lead in blood hikes Granny's heart risks

Science News, Monday, April 6, 2009

A new study finds that the more lead in the blood of postmenopausal women, the more likely they are to prematurely suffer from heart failure.

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/42491/title/Lead_in_blood_hikes_grannys_heart_risks

New UA lab researches medicines in water supply

Arizona Daily Star, Monday, April 13, 2009

Traces of pharmaceuticals are found in water supplies across the country, and the effects of many of these contaminants are unknown. A new laboratory at the University of Arizona will use novel methods and technology in an effort to uncover the consequences of these and other emerging contaminants.

<http://www.azstarnet.com/news/288452>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Consortium rejects FDA claim of BPA's safety

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Saturday, April 11, 2009

An international consortium composed of industry, academic, and government scientists has rejected the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's claim that BPA is safe for human health as unreliable and incomplete.

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/42858807.html>

Health Canada makes it official: BPA is health hazard

Canwest News Service, Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Canada plans to announce that bisphenol A (BPA) is hazardous to human health and inform manufacturers of baby bottles that they may no longer use the chemical in their products. Canada will be the first country to declare BPA a health hazard.

<http://www.canada.com/Health/Health%20Canada%20makes%20official%20health%20hazard/932205/story.html>

City air pollution 'shortens life'

BBC, Sunday, April 12, 2009

U.S. researchers have found that air pollution in cities can significantly impact the life span of urban populations. The study was conducted with using cities in the United

States, but it has been theorized that in highly polluted cities around the world, the effect may result in a difference of several years.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7946838.stm>

A 900-tonne PCB surprise

The London Free Press, Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Nine hundred tonnes of PCB-contaminated soil were discovered outside of Ontario's largest PCB dump in east London. The discovery, which officials claim will not hinder the goal of complete removal by the end of the year, makes some wonder how well the site has been contained in the past 20 years.

<http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/News/Local/2009/04/14/9104311-sun.html>

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The Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health is a coalition of health professionals, health-affected groups, environmental organizations, and others dedicated to a safe and less toxic world for Michigan's children. Through education, outreach, and advocacy, we seek to protect Michigan's children from adverse impacts caused by exposure to widespread hazardous chemicals. Visit: www.mnceh.org.