



Michigan Network for
CHILDREN'S
Environmental
HEALTH

Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from December 22, 2009 – January 4, 2010

MICHIGAN NEWS

Michigan Rep. Terry Brown warns parents to look out for dangerous toys

The Bay City Times, Tuesday, December 22, 2009

The congressman issued a reminder to parents and holiday shoppers to make sure they investigate the safety of the toys they purchase before giving them to children as gifts. He encouraged parents to seek out information on the latest toy recalls and databases, such as healthystuff.org.

<http://www.mlive.com/mudpuppy/index.ssf/2009/12/rep-brown-toxic-dangerous-toys.html>

Forum: Toys I can trust

Traverse City Record-Eagle, Thursday, December 24, 2009

Healthier toys under a Christmas tree would put a lot of parents' minds at ease. Michigan seems to be on the right track with the passage in the House of the Children's Safe Products Act in May.

http://www.record-eagle.com/opinion/local_story_358012809.html

National environmental group to oppose permit for Bay County coal plant

The Bay City Times, Sunday, January 3, 2010

A permit sought by Consumers Energy to build a new \$2 billion coal-fired power plant was approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality last week provided that Consumers shuts down older power plants. The Natural Resources Defense Council is fighting the agreement. The Council issued a report in August outlining their resistance.

http://www.mlive.com/mudpuppy/index.ssf/2010/01/national_environmental_group_t.html

Fight Against Asian Carp Threatens Fragile Great Lakes Unity

The New York Times, Saturday, January 2, 2009

The invasive species threatening to cause havoc on the Great Lakes ecosystem is causing problems between respective Great Lakes states as well. In an effort to stop the fish before it reaches Lake Michigan, the State of Michigan is suing the State of Illinois as well as other organizations and agencies that govern the waterways connecting the Mississippi and Great Lakes basins. In recent days, Ohio and Wisconsin have filed documents supporting Michigan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/03/science/earth/03states.html>

Updated Story: EPA seeks input on interim dioxin cleanup goals

Midland Daily News, Thursday, January 1, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday released interim dioxin cleanup goals for soil that would tighten the goals for contaminated sites across the country.

http://ourmidland.com/articles/2010/01/01/local_news/doc4b3e1d37ef4ea358735157.txt

NATIONAL NEWS

A tough new chemical law

The Environment Report, Monday, January 4, 2010

In the United States, unless a chemical can be proven harmful by regulators, it will stay on the market. In Europe they have turned that on its head and the United States is showing signs of moving in that direction as well.

http://environmentreport.org/story.php?story_id=4815

Use of potentially harmful chemicals kept secret under law

The Washington Post, Monday, January 4, 2010

The names and physical properties of nearly 20% of the 84,000 chemicals in commercial use in the U.S. are secret. This policy was included in the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, which exempts manufacturers from publicly disclosing information that could harm their bottom line. Increased public demand for information about chemical exposure has put pressure on lawmakers to rewrite chemical regulations.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/03/AR2010010302110.html>

EPA may propose C8 rules in 2012

The Charleston Gazette, Wednesday, December 30, 2009

The Obama Administration has announced that it may write new rules to limit the manufacture of C8 and other related perfluorinated chemicals, but not until 2012. This follows an announcement by EPA Administrator Jackson in September of her plan to propose wide-ranging reform to the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976. C8 is also called ammonium perfluorooctanoate and has been used by DuPont since 1950 as a processing agent to make Teflon and other non-stick products. Studies around the world have found low levels of the chemical in human blood and evidence is mounting that the chemical could be dangerous.

<http://wvgazette.com/News/200912300397>

'Citizen regulators' take toy safety testing into their own hands

The Washington Post, Saturday, December 26, 2009

A generation ago, parents and shoppers paid little attention to what goes into the ingredients used to make toys. But due to recalls, concerns about chemical exposures, and the lack of confidence in the government's ability to protect public health, consumers are beginning to take matters into their own hands and become regulators.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/25/AR2009122501674.html>

FDA to miss third deadline on BPA ruling

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Tuesday, December 29, 2009

The FDA will miss its third self-imposed deadline to let consumers know if it's safe to use products made with bisphenol A. This chemical is found in the lining of most food and beverage cans. The delays have angered health advocates and environmental groups.

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/80318597.html>

NY considers list of 85 chemicals to avoid buying

The Journal News, Sunday, January 3, 2010

New York is on the brink of creating a list of 85 chemicals for state agencies to avoid purchasing. This could leverage the industry to reduce production of products with toxins and carcinogens without a full ban on certain chemicals. The list comes from an advisory council and includes such substances as pesticides, solvents, herbicides, carpets, and lubricants.

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20100103/NEWS02/1030391/1018/NY-considers-list-of-85-chemicals-to-avoid-buying>

Push is on to speed phase-out of flame retardant

The Baltimore Sun, Monday, January 4, 2010

Delegates of Maryland's General Assembly are calling for a ban of decaBDE in the state within two years, two years shorter than a phase-out by the three largest manufacturers and importers of decaBDE that was announced last month by the U.S. EPA.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bal-md.fireretardant04jan04,0,5091472.story>

Childhood exposure to tobacco smoke raises risk of emphysema

Los Angeles Times, Monday, December 28, 2009

It has long been thought that those who quit smoking recover some of their lung function and health but a recently released report from scientists at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health show that children exposed to secondhand smoke react differently. 1,781 nonsmoking adults were given CT scans showing that participants who were exposed to more secondhand smoke as children had lung changes resembling emphysema.

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/12/secondhand-smoke-emphysema.html

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Alert over levels of lead in children's cosmetics

Dublin Irish Independent, Thursday, December 24, 2009

High levels of lead have been found in several brands of children's cosmetics over the past couple of years. 24 alerts have been issued by the Department of Health to recall play make-up used by children.

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/alert-over-levels-of-lead-in-childrens-cosmetics-1988285.html>

Hong Kong air pollution alarming

Agence France, Monday, January 4, 2010

Roadside air pollution in Hong Kong reached life-threatening levels in one out of every eight days in 2009 according to a report released by the government. There were 44 days of "very high pollution" based on an air pollution index exceeding 100. The number of days where this dangerous level was reached was significantly higher than the 39 days in 2008 and the 13 days in 2005.

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/International/Hong-Kong-air-pollution-alarming-6982.html>

Arsenic in water: Major cause of cancer in Punjab

Punjab Newslite Network, Saturday, January 2, 2010

Scientists at Punjab Agricultural University have identified arsenic contaminated water as a reason behind the spread and increase in cancer in the Punjab. Scientists are now working on a process to bind arsenic with nano-particles to neutralize or at least minimize the harmful effects of arsenic.

<http://www.punjabnewslite.com/content/view/22290/38/>

NETWORK MEMBER NEWSLETTERS

EcoLink

E-Newsletter of the [Ecology Center](#)

December 2009

<http://ecocenter.org/newsletter/ecolink/dec09/>

Healthy Children Project

Monthly e-news Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan

December 2009

<http://www.ldaofmichigan.org/healthychildnews.htm>

MESSAGES FROM THE NETWORK

The MNCEH is co-sponsoring a Toxic Toy Testing event in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan. You can bring toys and children's products to the event for free testing for toxic chemicals.

Jan. 14th - Grosse Pointe Park

7:00-9:00pm

Trombly Elementary School.

Download a flier - <http://www.mnceh.org/events/GrossePointeParkToyTesting.pdf>

Subscribe to the e-list of the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health:

<http://www.mnceh.org/join.join.php>

Unsubscribe from Toxic Times: <http://www.mnceh.org/take.unsubscribe.toxicetimes.php>

Download Toxic Times as a pdf or view archives by visiting:

<http://www.mnceh.org/toxicetimes/news.php>

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. Please visit: www.mnceh.org.