



Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from June 4, 2009 – June 17, 2009

(Please note that we are now issuing "Toxic Times" every other week. We welcome your feedback! Please write to gen@ecocenter.org. Thank-you!)

MICHIGAN NEWS

EPA downplays dredging risk to Bay City water supply

The Michigan Messenger, Monday, June 15, 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has decided not to test the waters near Bay City for dioxin while the agency oversees dredging remediation. Though the agency claims there is no reason for concern, residents and state officials are not as sure.

<http://michiganmessenger.com/20944/epa-downplays-dredging-risk-to-bay-city-water-supply>

Feds, Georgia-Pacific agree on Kalamazoo River PCB landfill containment plan

The Michigan Messenger, Wednesday, June 3, 2009

An agreement between Georgia-Pacific and the EPA will result in contaminated material from the Kalamazoo River being placed in a local landfill, which will then be capped and the nearby groundwater monitored. As per the agreement, the cost of the Superfund project will be split between the federal government and Georgia-Pacific.

<http://michiganmessenger.com/20197/feds-georgia-pacific-agree-on-kalamazoo-river-pcb-landfill-containment-plan>

NATIONAL NEWS

Mattel fined \$2.3 million for lead-paint violation

CNN Money, Friday, June 5, 2009

The Consumer Product Safety Commission fined Mattel Co. and its Fisher-Price division \$2.3 million for violating lead paint standards in 2007, an act that resulted in the recall of millions of toys.

<http://money.cnn.com/2009/06/05/news/companies/cpsc/>

Medical group calls for reducing use of BPA

USA Today, Thursday, June 11, 2009

The Endocrine Society, a group of health professionals and scientists specializing in the endocrine system, have issued a statement promoting a 'precautionary approach' regarding plastic additives that may cause endocrine disruption, most notably bisphenol-A (BPA).

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-06-10-BPAstudy_N.htm

Battle over the baby bottle: Should containers with bisphenol A be banned?

The Christian Science Monitor, Friday, June 5, 2009

As many state and federal legislators work to ban BPA from food containers and baby bottles, industry groups claim that the science behind the proposed bans is insubstantial.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0605/p02s08-usgn.html>

Newborn girls,' boys' behavior differs after prenatal phthalate exposure

Environmental Health News, Monday, June 8, 2009

In the first study to link human neurological development and phthalates, newborn girls with prenatal phthalate exposure performed poorer in a standard behavior test than girls without the exposure. No significant difference was detected in boys.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/prenatal-exposure-to-phthalates-affects-newborn-behavior/>

Pollution experts: Save fish from drugs in water

The Associated Press via Google, Tuesday, June 9, 2009

A congressional panel heard testimony from pollution experts urging them to pass legislation to keep pharmaceuticals out of water supplies. Pharmaceuticals are suspected of disrupting the development of some aquatic species, and the risk to humans remains unknown.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5joOm3RWykIp6u5WdYAVcOI_HC3MwD98NBRFO0

Are perfluorochemicals widespread in biosolids?

Environmental Science and Technology, Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Government agencies are attempting to determine the level of perfluorochemicals in sewage sludge, which is often used as fertilizer. Polyfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), one of the perfluorochemicals, was recently banned internationally by the Stockholm Convention.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es901417h>

Mom's pesticide exposure at work increases her child's leukemia risk

Environmental Health News, Tuesday, June 17, 2009

A new study investigating the effects of work-related parental pesticide exposure on children has indicated that maternal exposure during pregnancy doubles the risk of childhood leukemia. Paternal exposure prior to pregnancy did not appear to be significant.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/moms-pesticide-contact-at-work-increases-childs-leukemia-risk/>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chemical in baby bottles 'raises risk of heart disease'

The London Daily Mail, Thursday, June 11, 2009

New animal research found that bisphenol-A can cause irregular heart conditions and even arrhythmia in mice and rats, particularly females. These findings, in combination with studies showing individuals with higher BPA concentrations are more likely to have heart disease, are causing researchers to wonder about the cardiac effects of BPA.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1192238/Chemical-baby-bottles-raises-risk-heart-disease.html>

Swedish study finds changed levels of some toxics in breast milk

The Local, Sunday, June 7, 2009

A Swedish study found that the levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other contaminants that pollute breast milk have gone down since the mid-1990s. However, the study also found that the trend was not universal, as some chemical concentrations had not changed and others had increased.

<http://www.thelocal.se/19920/20090607/>

PCBs in native foods may be reducing testosterone in Mohawk men

Environmental Health News, Friday, June 12, 2009

Akwesasne, a territory on the St. Lawrence River, provides fish for some members of the Mohawk Nation. New research shows that PCBs, which contaminate the fish, not only mimic estrogen, but also inhibit testosterone production.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/mohawks-and-pcbs>

Road particles pose ‘higher risk’

BBC News, Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Researchers in London have found that children in the city have a 5% lower lung capacity than the national average. Researchers suspect that particulates from roads may be responsible, and fear that the decreased lung volume could result in disease later in life.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8092182.stm>

Blood lead levels in Chinese children are high, but decreasing

Environmental Health News, Thursday, June 4, 2009

Nine years have passed since China banned lead in gasoline. Though blood lead levels in Chinese children are still high, there is a significant decreasing trend over the last decade.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/blood-lead-levels-in-chinese-children-high-but-decreasing/>

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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. Please visit: www.mnceh.org.