



# Toxic Times

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

## News Highlights from May 21, 2009 – June 3, 2009

(Please note that beginning today, we plan to start issuing "Toxic Times" each two weeks. We welcome your feedback! Please write to [gen@ecocenter.org](mailto:gen@ecocenter.org). Thank-you!)

### MICHIGAN NEWS

#### **EPA announces dioxin review, plans for Dow cleanup**

*Forbes*, Tuesday, May 26, 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced that it will speed up the release of an assessment of how dioxins affect human health. It plans to use this information to quicken a timetable to clean up dioxin pollution of the Saginaw River watershed.

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/05/26/ap6467040.html>

#### **'Green chemistry' bills clear house**

*Summarized from an article released by the subscription-only news service Gongwer*  
Tuesday, June 2, 2009

The Michigan House passed legislation (100-9) that would offer tax incentives to companies that produce chemicals or processes in a manner that reduces or eliminates harmful contaminants.

#### **Pall Life Sciences' water cleanup proposal criticized**

*The Ann Arbor News*, Thursday, May 21, 2009

Pall Life Sciences, which has been removing dioxane from groundwater supplies surrounding Ann Arbor, has suggested changing the remediation plan after claiming the current one is not cost effective. Critics argue that the new plan could potentially place one of the city's drinking water sources at risk.

[http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2009/05/pall\\_life\\_sciences\\_water\\_clean.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2009/05/pall_life_sciences_water_clean.html)

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### **Ecology Center and other Environmental Groups ask EPA to ban lead tire weights**

*The San Francisco Chronicle*, Monday, June 1, 2009

Environmental groups are petitioning the EPA to ban lead weights in tires, which are estimated to release 3.5 million pounds of lead into the environment each year. The petition comes after a similar request was denied by the previous administration's EPA in 2005.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/05/31/BAJB17TLD7.DTL>

#### **Connecticut BPA ban moves forward**

*NEWSInferno.com*, Wednesday, May 27, 2009

The Connecticut State House voted overwhelmingly to ban the chemical bisphenol A (BPA) from plastic containers used by or for infants and children. The ban, which would become effective in 2011, does not ban BPA in general consumer products, such as canned food linings.

<http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/6380>

### **Opinion shifting against chemical**

*The Columbus Dispatch*, Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Federal legislators and lawmakers from 20 states are working to ban BPA, a chemical used in everything from cups to food can liners. BPA has been linked to numerous and varied adverse health effects.

[http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2009/05/26/BPA bans\\_ART\\_ART\\_05-26-09\\_A1\\_I5DUSU2.html?sid=101](http://www.columbusdispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2009/05/26/BPA bans_ART_ART_05-26-09_A1_I5DUSU2.html?sid=101)

### **Strategy is being devised to protect use of BPA**

*The Washington Post*, Sunday, May 31, 2009

Manufacturers of metal cans and their consumers met to discuss means of protecting their use of bisphenol A (BPA) from regulation or ban. BPA has recently become the target of a number of potential federal and state bans.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/30/AR2009053002121.html>

### **FDA reviewing decision on safety of BPA**

*The Associate Press via Google*, Tuesday, June 2, 2009

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has decided to review its ruling that trace amounts of BPA leached from food containers and bottles pose no threat for infants.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hYwYR5ULUu2bNooSnKxU\\_80kJcfwD98IQ6J00](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hYwYR5ULUu2bNooSnKxU_80kJcfwD98IQ6J00)

### **New data suggest PBDE by-products are ubiquitous in U.S. waters**

*Environmental Science and Technology*, Wednesday, May 27, 2009

New research has demonstrated that compounds produced when PBDEs are exposed to wastewater treatment can form dioxins, which are suspected to be prevalent throughout U.S. waters.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es901200v>

### **Phthalates may soften, weaken bones**

*Environmental Health News*, Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Phthalates, whose use is widespread in consumer products, may harm bone development and weaken existing bone by influencing the death of cells that produce bone matrix, according to a new animal study.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/phthalates-plasticize-human-bones/>

### **Editorial: Fighting head lice with lindane: does using a banned pesticide on kids make sense?**

*American Journal of Nursing: Off the Charts*, Wednesday, May 27, 2009

When over-the-counter treatments for head lice fail, many parents are told to obtain prescriptions for lindane, a pesticide that can have severe neurological effects.  
<http://ajnoffthecharts.wordpress.com/2009/05/27/fighting-head-lice-with-lindane-does-using-a-banned-pesticide-on-kids-make-sense/>

**Impulsive behavior in preteens linked to mom's smoking when pregnant**

*Environmental Health News*, Tuesday, May 26, 2009

Children whose mothers smoked during pregnancy are more likely to exhibit impulsive behavior and use different regions of the brain to respond to a behavior test, according to new research.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/smoking-during-pregnancy-can-lead-to-impulsive-behavior-in-children/>

**Pollution may contribute to rise in liver disease**

*Reuters*, Friday, May 29, 2009

Environmental pollution may be contributing to liver disease, according to new research. The link between certain environmental pollutants and unexplained liver disease was significant even after adjusting for race, gender, poverty, diabetes, and obesity.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE54S4V220090529>

**Breathing less easily with ultrafine particles**

*Environmental Science and Technology*, Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ultrafine particles—nanometers in diameter—have remained relatively unstudied until recently. New research being conducted on them is calling their impact on human health into question.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es901328h>

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Exposure to combustion by-products linked to male infertility**

*Environmental Health News*, Friday, May 29, 2009

A new study in China suggests that men exposed to the by-products of combustion, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, may be at a greater risk for decreased fertility.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/exposure-to-pahs-may-affect-male-fertility/>

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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](http://www.mnceh.org).*