



Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from May 7, 2009 – May 13, 2009

MICHIGAN NEWS

Michigan to keep nuclear waste on-site as storage proposal dies

The Detroit News, Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Yucca Mountain, once destined to be the nation's nuclear waste repository, has been removed as a viable option by the Obama administration. With no plans for long-term storage, DTE is opting to keep its nuclear waste on-site, a move fueling opposition to plans to build another nuclear power plant.

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20090512/METRO/905120358/Mich.-to-keep-nuclear-waste-on-site-as-storage-proposal-dies>

Ill winds blow no good to Great Lakes, experts say

The South Bend Tribune, Sunday, May 10, 2009

Contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes have been cleaned for years. However, new contamination is affecting the lakes as persistent organic pollutants are deposited from the air.

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090510/News01/905100374/1011/News>

NATIONAL NEWS

Minnesota bans BPA in baby bottles

The Minneapolis Star Tribune, Friday, May 8, 2009

Minnesota will become the first state to ban products containing the chemical bisphenol-A (BPA), a suspected endocrine disruptor. The legislation signed by Republican Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty will ban food containers intended for children under the age of three that contain BPA, effective January 1, 2010.

<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/44586267.html>

Minnesota Governor signs BPA ban and chemical oversight bill

Minnesota Public Radio, Friday, May 8, 2009

Minnesota Gov. Pawlenty also signed legislation called the Toxic-Free Kids Act, which is designed to help protect children from chemicals in consumer products. It requires the Minnesota Department of Health to assess chemicals used in consumer products and publish a list of those with known human health risks.

http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2009/05/08/minnesota_bpa_ban/

Study links formaldehyde to more common cancers

USA Today, Tuesday, May 12, 2009

A study recently released by the National Cancer Institute has found increased correlation between formaldehyde—a common chemical found in everything from plywood to nail polish—and blood and lymphatic cancers.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-05-12-formaldehyde-cancer_N.htm

Pesticide carbofuran banned in food crops

The Associated Press via Taiwan News, Tuesday, May 12, 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a ban on the pesticide carbofuran. The ban, effective beginning at the end of the year, is due to the agency's ruling that the compound poses an unacceptable health risk, particularly in children.

http://www.etaiwannews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=946133&lang=eng_news

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN: Treaty expanded by nine more dangerous chemicals – including lindane

The New York Times, Saturday, May 9, 2009

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, a U.N.-sponsored treaty, has been expanded to include nine additional chemicals, either to be restricted or banned. The chemicals include certain flame retardants, pesticides and their byproducts, and dye carriers.

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/05/09/world/AP-UN-UN-Toxic-Chemicals.html?_r=1

Dell bans e-waste export to developing nations

The Associated Press via Google, Tuesday, May 12, 2009

With no U.S. regulation, environmental and work-safety groups fear that an e-waste disposal and recycling industry has formed in developing nations, one that holds potential danger for its employees. Dell, Inc. has now publicly announced its ban on exporting e-waste to the developing world, an action many hope will place industry pressure on competitors.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iicAZ2II5oToZ0VqQPNRee3degIAD984RGLG1>

Baby male monkeys act more like female infants after BPA exposure in the womb

Environmental Health News, Monday, May 11, 2009

A new study has shown that male monkeys exposed to BPA while in the womb exhibit female behavior when compared to control counterparts. The research on the monkeys, selected for their similarity to humans, suggests feminizing effects of BPA in males, which has also been correlated in other species.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/bpa-affects-male-infant-behaviors-in-monkeys/>

Cleaner air from reduced emissions could save millions of lives, says report

The London Guardian, Tuesday, May 12, 2009

A recent report claims that cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050 could prevent 100 million premature deaths, due to the higher quality of air.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/may/12/emissions-pollution-premature-deaths>

Gender-bending chemical timebomb fear for boys' fertility

The London Daily Mail, Wednesday, May 13, 2009

A leading British reproductive biologist has warned that endocrine-disrupting chemicals risk feminizing male fetuses and causing low-sperm counts and increased chances of cancer later in their lives.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1180957/Gender-bending-chemical-timebomb-fear-boys-fertility.html>

Subscribe to 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.toxictimes.php>

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

<http://www.mnceh.org/toxictimes/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.