



Michigan Network for  
**CHILDREN'S**  
**Environmental**  
**HEALTH**

# Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from October 20, 2009 – November 3, 2009

## MICHIGAN NEWS

### **Michigan limits mercury emissions from coal-fired plants, requires 90 percent cutback by 2015**

*Los Angeles Times*, Tuesday, October 20, 2009

New regulations require power generators to decrease their mercury emissions by 90% from their 1999 levels by 2015. It is estimated that these new regulations will reduce mercury emissions in Michigan by 3,600 pounds a year.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-michigan-mercury.0,6318472.story>

### **Michigan waterways enriched with close to 600,000 pounds of toxic chemicals**

*The Bay City Times*, Wednesday, October 21, 2009

A report from Environment Michigan says that industry dumped 575,930 pounds of toxic chemicals into Michigan's lakes, rivers, and streams in 2007.

[http://www.mlive.com/mudpuppy/index.ssf/2009/10/michigan\\_waterways\\_enriched\\_wi.html](http://www.mlive.com/mudpuppy/index.ssf/2009/10/michigan_waterways_enriched_wi.html)

### **Landlords decry ordinance forcing them to clean up lead paint**

*The Detroit News*, Thursday, October 22, 2009

A new ordinance adopted by the Detroit City Council requires the clean up of lead paint inside rental properties before they can receive annual certificates of compliance.

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20091022/METRO/910220488/Landlords-decry-ordinance-forcing-them-to-clean-up-lead-paint#at>

### **EPA settles with Detroit Co. over hazardous waste**

*The Associated Press*, Friday, October 30, 2009

Detroit based Usher Enterprises, Inc. has been ordered to spend \$700,000 by the EPA to upgrade two oil recycling facilities. The company allegedly violated hazardous waste regulations. It will also pay \$19,700 in fines.

<http://www.wlns.com/Global/story.asp?S=11414133#at>

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Study: Lead found in popular children's face paints**

*Seattle King 5 News*, Wednesday, October 28, 2009

A study sponsored by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics found lead in all 10 paints that they tested. The products also contained traces of nickel, cobalt and/or chromium.

<http://www.king5.com/health/Study-Lead-contamination-found-in-popular-face-paints-67009872.html>

### **U.S. government plans major study of the safety of BPA**

*USA Today*, Friday, October 30, 2009

The National Institutes of Health has set aside \$30 million, half of that from the stimulus, to study the safety of bisphenol A (BPA). The chemical has been found in over 90% of Americans but NIH is unsure how much of a threat it poses.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-10-28-BPA-bisphenolA-federal-study\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-10-28-BPA-bisphenolA-federal-study_N.htm)

### **Pollutants in students' blood unrelated to recent food/dust exposure**

*Environmental Health News*, Monday, October 26, 2009

A recent study from the scientific publication *Environmental Science and Technology* has concluded that persistent pollutants measured from the blood of college students are from past exposures instead of current exposures.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/pcbs-dde-in-students-unrelated-to-recent-food-dust-exposure/>

### **EPA Aim to Widen Rules on Lead Paint in Older Homes**

*The Wall Street Journal*, Friday, October 23, 2009

The EPA has proposed to expand on a requirement from a 2008 ruling that contractors who work on homes built before 1978 must receive training to reduce potential exposure from lead based paint if residents include pregnant women or children under six. The proposal would expand the requirement to include all homes built before 1978, regardless of who lives in them.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125623613257901823.html>

### **Kicking Formaldehyde Out of Bed**

*The Wall Street Journal*, Thursday, October 22, 2009

Industry and environmental groups have backed a bill that would set limits on indoor emission of formaldehyde. The standards would apply to particleboard, plywood, and medium-density fiberboard. There is currently no federal standard for indoor emissions of formaldehyde.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthcomment/geoffrey-lean/6418553/Why-boys-are-turning-into-girls.html#at>

### **EPA Agrees to Deadline in 2011 for Setting Rules on Mercury Emissions**

*The New York Times*, Friday, October 23, 2009

A lawsuit by environmental and public health groups against the EPA to set a deadline for setting national standards for mercury emissions from coal and oil power plants has been settled. The standards must be set by November 16, 2011. American power plants emit over 50 tons of mercury a year along with traces of other toxic substances such as arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, and dioxins.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/24/science/earth/24mercury.html?ref=earth>

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **Toxic Contaminants: The Other Scourge**

*Environment Australia*, Monday November 2, 2009

As climate change garners more and more of the world's attention, the increase of toxic contaminants in air, water, and soil is going unnoticed. These contaminants are responsible for a global epidemic of cancers and lung disease and have cost health care systems millions of dollars.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=49102>

### **Why boys are turning into girls**

*London Daily Telegraph*, Friday, October 23, 2009

A report released by the Danish government shows that two-year-old children are at risk from a wide array of "gender-bending" chemicals in everyday products such as clothes, boots, bed linens, food, sunscreen, and lotion. The study concluded that regulations are falling short of what's needed.<sup>1</sup>

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-michigan-mercury,0,6318472.story>

### **Traffic pollution may be to blame for miscarriages, say researchers**

*The London Times*, Friday, October 23, 2009

A study of 400 Brazilian women receiving IVF treatment found that those who became pregnant in winter were twice as likely to miscarry in the first eight weeks of pregnancy than those who conceived at other times of the year. Pollution levels are particularly high in winter and researchers say these findings could be relevant to other countries in temperate climates where air pollution regularly exceeds WHO standards.

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/health/article6885902.ece#at](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/article6885902.ece#at)

### **Soil-Oil Tests Expose High Toxic Levels**

*The New Vision*, Wednesday, October 21, 2009

A study performed at 10 oil fields in Uganda has shown unacceptable levels of heavy metals in waster water and cuttings left by oil companies. The contaminated cuttings are put in open pits that fill with water when it rains. Lead concentrations in wastewater were 19 times higher than standard levels.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910220126.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. Please visit: [www.mnceh.org](http://www.mnceh.org).*

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