



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 6, 2009 – October 19, 2009

MICHIGAN NEWS

“Body Burden” Study Reveals Toxic Chemicals in Michigan State Rep & Prominent Pediatrician

Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health, Thursday, October 8, 2009

The first national study of the toxic chemical “body burden” in health professionals found an array of hazardous chemicals in twenty doctors and nurses from ten states. This included Michigan state representative Jimmy Womack, MD and the founder of MSU's Department of Pediatrics, Dr. William Weil.

<http://www.mnceh.org/press/news.pr.php>

Weighing the risks and benefits of eating Great Lakes Fish

Great Lakes Echo, Thursday, October 15, 2009

Great lakes fish are praised as excellent sources of lean protein and omega-3 fatty acids but do the health benefits outweigh the risks from contaminants such as methyl mercury and PCB's?

<http://greatlakesecho.org/2009/10/15/weighing-the-risks-and-benefits-of-eating-great-lakes-fish/>

Michigan proposal would restrict mining operations

The Associated Press via The Chicago Tribune, Wednesday, October 14, 2009

The state election board has approved a proposed ballot measure that would ban some types of mining and restrict others. Michigan Save Our Water Committee, the group that submitted the petition, would have to collect more than 300,000 voter signatures to get the proposal on the November 2010 ballot.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-mining-ballotprop.0,4923509.story>

NATIONAL NEWS

Momentum builds for tighter regulation of industrial chemicals

The Michigan Messenger, Wednesday, October 14, 2009

At a time when there is growing concern about the health effects of chemical exposure, the Obama administration has presented a plan to strengthen federal regulation of the chemical industry.

<http://michiganmessenger.com/27861/momentum-builds-for-tighter-regulation-of-industrial-chemicals>

EPA director backs tougher regulation of chemicals

Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel, Wednesday, October 7, 2009

The director of the U.S. EPA, Lisa Jackson announced that massive reform of chemicals policy is needed to protect America's children from chemicals. She said that far too little is known about chemicals that enter the market place and manufacturers don't have enough certainty about how chemicals they produce are regulated.

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/63648292.html>

OMB Endocrine Directive Draws Industry Cheers, Enviro Jeers

Greenwire, Thursday, October 15, 2009

The Office of Management and Budget has told the EPA to use existing toxicity data from studies done on chemicals that can disrupt the reproductive system instead of requiring manufacturers to conduct new tests on the potentially harmful chemicals.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/10/15/15greenwire-omb-endocrine-directive-draws-industry-cheers-87247.html>

Mattel lead settlement could add up to \$50M-plus

The Associated press, Thursday, October 15, 2009

The toy company and its Fisher-Price subsidiary have agreed to settle a consumer lawsuit over the 2007 recall of millions of toys made in China that were found to have high levels of lead.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h2VyaKG1Zej8bnrH09Y692wJU-QD9BB4VC80>

Smoking Bans Reduce Heart Attacks and Disease

The New York Times, Thursday, October 15, 2009

A federally commissioned panel of scientists released a report issued by the Institute of Medicine saying that bans on smoking in public places reduce cases of heart attacks and heart disease.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/16/science/16smoke.html?_r=1

EPA Vows Better Effort on Water

The New York Times, Thursday, October 15, 2009

The EPA has announced that it plans to overhaul the enforcement of the Clean Water Act after criticism by members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on decade-long lapses on punishing violators.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/16/business/energy-environment/16water.html?hpw>

Regulators Plan to Study Risks of Atrazine

The New York Times, Wednesday, October 7, 2009

The EPA has plans to conduct a new study about the health risks of the commonly used weed killer, atrazine. Atrazine is an herbicide often used on cornfields and golf courses and is one of the most common contaminants in drinking water in the U.S.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/07/business/energy-environment/07water.html?ref=earth>

15,000 people to move away from lead poisoning threat in central China

China View, Friday, October 16, 2009

The Chinese government plans to move residents of Jiyuan away from lead smelters after nearly 1,000 children were shown to have excessive blood lead levels.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/16/content_12247423.htm

Toxic legacy seeps from melting Alpine glaciers

Agence France-Presse, Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Researchers have found that Alpine glaciers melting under increased temperatures from climate change are releasing toxic pollutants that have been absorbed by the ice for decades. Their study has revealed build-ups of compounds that are now banned such as dioxins and DDT.

<http://news.msn.com/topstories/article.aspx?cp-documentid=3639212>

Enduring War and ‘Witch’s Brew of Toxic Chemicals’

ABC News, Thursday, October 8, 2009

For years the U.S. Naval Air facility at Atsugi, Japan has been living in the shadow of an incinerator whose plume of toxic smoke has floated through the homes and school yards of the military families living on the base.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/military-veterans-victims-toxic-chemical-exposure-share-stories/story?id=8780874>

Oozing with controversy

The Montreal Gazette, Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Sludge leftover from wastewater treatment plants contains heavy metals, human waste, and other toxic pollutants that enter sewer systems. This sludge is also used as fertilizer, which is worrying experts.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/technology/Oozing%20with%20controversy/2079944/story.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