



Michigan Network for
CHILDREN'S
Environmental
HEALTH

Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from September 18, 2009 – October 5, 2009

MICHIGAN NEWS

International Joint Commission flags inconsistent U.S./Canadian regulation of fire retardant linked to health concerns

Great Lakes Echo, Monday, October 5, 2009

The international commission that is responsible for upholding the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the U.S. and Canada is questioning why the U.S. is making a fire retardant, deca-BDE, which is banned in Canada.

<http://greatlakesecho.org/2009/10/05/international-joint-commission-flags-inconsistent-uscanadian-regulation-of-fire-retardant-linked-to-health-concerns/#more-11261>

Environmental enforcement to get hit again in new state cuts

The Michigan Messenger, Monday, October 5, 2009

The Michigan state Legislature has approved a 39% budget cut for the fund supporting the DEQ for the 2010 fiscal year.

<http://michiganmessenger.com/>

Tentative deal reached in Dow dioxin talks

The Associated Press, Tuesday, September 29, 2009

The U.S. EPA and Michigan DEQ say they have reached a tentative deal with Dow Chemical Co. on cleanup of dioxin contamination near one of their plants in Midland.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-dow-dioxin,0,3338895.story>

Michigan Green Chemistry Governor's Award Recipients Honored

MDEQ, Friday, September 25, 2009

Winners of the first annual Michigan Green Chemistry Governor's Award Program were recognized at a Detroit ceremony.

<http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135--222796--,00.html>

NATIONAL NEWS

EPA unveils plan to review 6 controversial chemicals, reform U.S. toxics policy

Environmental Health News, Tuesday, September 29, 2009

EPA administrator announced a push to transform the way the U.S. regulates toxic chemicals. Administrator Jackson called the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 "inordinately cumbersome and time-consuming" and said the EPA will push for a new chemical law in Congress.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/epa-chemicals>

Drinking water unsafe at thousands of schools

The Associated Press, Friday, September 25, 2009

Over the last 10 years, the drinking water at thousands of schools across the United States has been found to be high in lead, pesticides, and other toxins. These schools are found in all 50 states, in small towns, and inner cities. This problem has been largely ignored even as the number of safety violations has increased.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33008932/ns/health-kids_and_parenting/

Reactions to the Senate Climate Bill

Green Inc. via The New York Times, Wednesday, September 30, 2009

The Democratic bill proposed a 20% cut of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. Deeper than both the House's bill which proposed a 17% cut and President Obama's call for a 14% cut. However, this senate version included measures that will make the target easier to reach and cheaper for consumers.

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/30/reactions-to-the-senate-climate-bill/>

U.S. EPA: Limit plane de-icing chemical runoff

The Associated press, Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Every winter millions of gallons of de-icing chemicals are sprayed onto airliners and allowed to runoff without being captured. Currently this is legal, but the U.S. EPA is proposing regulations that would require airports to capture at least some of the de-icing fluid after its use.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33071411/ns/us_news-environment/

EPA: Older Buildings, Schools Contaminated with PCB's

The Epoch Times, Tuesday, September 29, 2009

The U.S. EPA recently announced that many buildings in the U.S. have caulk around windows and doors that contains PCB's. PCB's were banned in the U.S. in 1976 but many buildings built preceding the ban still contain the toxic substance.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/23159/>

Franken seeks ingredient labeling for household cleaners

Minneapolis KARE TV, Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Senator Al Franken of Minnesota introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate that would require producers of cleaning products to disclose ingredients on the product label.

http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=825520&catid=391

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Toxic Loophole

The Record, Sunday, October 4, 2009

The EPA has filed complaints and levied fines on some companies because of exportation of old television and computer monitors that contain toxic debris. Loopholes have allowed companies to ship these materials to developing countries.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/environment/Toxic_loophole.html

Smuggling Europe's Waste to Poorer Countries

The New York Times, Saturday, September 26, 2009

Exporting waste illegally to poor countries is a growing international business. New environmental laws have increased the costs of disposing waste in an environmentally friendly way.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/27/science/earth/27waste.html>

Chemicals in breast milk linked to testicular cancer

Daily Mail, Friday, September 25, 2009

A study done in Denmark has shown that hormone-disrupting chemicals such as some pesticides find their way into breast milk and have been linked to an increased rate of testicular cancer in that country.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1215877/Chemicals-breast-milk-linked-testicular-cancer.html>

Polluted plumes from distant countries can cause health problems, study warns

The Oregonian, Tuesday, September 29, 2009

While air pollution is almost always dominated by local emissions, a report by the National Research Council warns that plumes of pollutants can cross continents and oceans.

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/09/polluted_plumes_from_distant_c.html

From Turbines and Straw, Danish Self-Sufficiency

The New York Times via The Samsø Journal, Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Last year the Danish island of Samsø completed a 10-year experiment to see if it could become energy self-sufficient.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/30/world/europe/30samsø.html?ref=earth>

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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.