



ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES
AND DISEASE REGISTRY

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It was created by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (also known as the Superfund legislation). ATSDR's mission is to serve the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances.

September 2008

Environmental Health

Kerr-McGee/Tronox Columbus, MS Fish Exposure Investigation

Background

The Kerr-McGee facility is located within the drainage basin of Luxapalila Creek, which is about one-half mile away. In the past, it was possible for PCP and dioxins to wash into drainage ditches near the plant. Surface water flowing through the ditches could have carried sediment-bound dioxins into the surrounding neighborhoods and the Luxapalila Creek. Limited testing has found PCP and dioxins in sediment samples from the 14th Avenue ditch.

What did ATSDR do?

ATSDR conducted a Fish Exposure Investigation (EI) to determine if fish in Luxapalila Creek contain chemicals that could cause health problems for the people who eat it. In this EI, we collected and tested channel catfish and spotted bass for dioxins. We collected fish from a section of Luxapalila Creek that might have received surface water runoff from the facility. A second sampling location was near the town of Steens, about 5-miles upstream from the facility.

Conclusions

ATSDR concluded that:

- Small amount of dioxins were found in the fish tested.
- The small amount of dioxins found in the fish would not cause health problems for those who eat the fish.

How do I get more information?

For more information on:

- The Kerr-McGee fish EI, please call Ken Orloff at 770-488-0735.
- ATSDR activities in Columbus, MS, please call Loretta Asbury at 770-488-0718.
Or you can call toll free 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636), and ask to speak to someone about the Kerr-McGee/Tronox site in Columbus, MS.
- ATSDR, visit our website at www.atsdr.cdc.gov.