

ATSDR's Findings on Outdoor Air Contaminants Near Veolia North America Trade Waste Incineration

Sauget, St. Clair County, Illinois



The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) evaluated outdoor air monitoring data to understand whether breathing contaminants near Veolia North America-Trade Waste Incineration (Veolia) and other industrial facilities could potentially harm the health of people living in Sauget and Cahokia Heights.

What did ATSDR find out about air pollution?

- People living in Sauget and Cahokia Heights may have had their health harmed in the past by breathing lead, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) released into the air from 1990 to 1992 by industrial facilities in Sauget.
- People living in Sauget and Cahokia Heights today are unlikely to be harmed by breathing metals at concentrations found in the air, based on data from 2021 and 2022.
- ATSDR did not have enough air monitoring data to determine whether people are currently being harmed by breathing VOCs in the air in Sauget and Cahokia Heights.

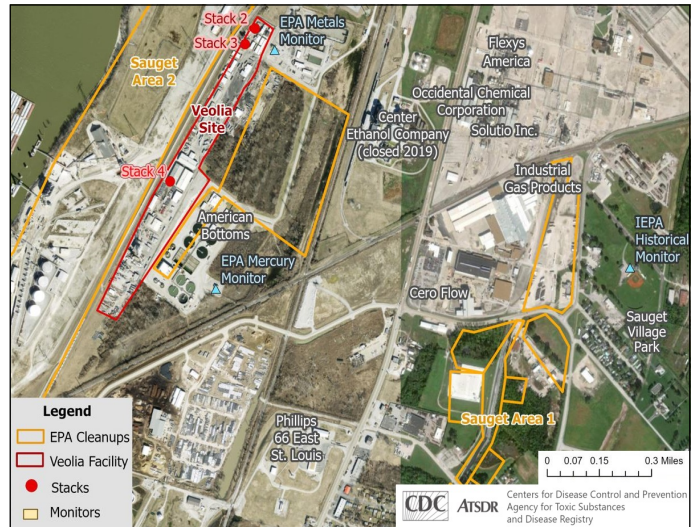
What Does ATSDR Recommend?

- ATSDR recommends people living in Sauget and Cahokia Heights to
 - » check the daily air quality at www.airnow.gov and follow the advice to reduce exposure when ozone or fine particle levels are high.
 - » avoid playing water sports or eating fish caught in waterways near Sauget.
For water quality information, visit www.epa.gov/waterdata/how-my-waterway
For fish advisories, visit dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/fish-advisories.
- ATSDR recommends United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency consider long-term, community-based air monitoring, including in downwind communities, using standard EPA methods to characterize VOCs and aldehydes.
- ATSDR recommends local regulatory and health agencies to encourage blood-lead testing of children and promote lead-based paint testing and clean-up programs for homes in Sauget and Cahokia Heights, IL.

Background

Veolia is a 35-acre hazardous waste management facility located at 7 Mobile Street, Sauget, IL. The facility is permitted to store, process, and burn materials like halogenated solvents and organic acids. Veolia is in a highly industrial area. There is a nearby coal storage area, chemical manufacturing plants, a petrochemical storage facility, rail yards, and a wastewater treatment plant.

In 2019, a federally elected official from Illinois asked ATSDR to investigate whether Veolia is releasing contaminants into outdoor air and potentially harming people's health. The EPA measured contaminants in air near Veolia between June 2021 and March 2022. ATSDR evaluated EPA's data and assessed possible health risks to the community.



Our findings are summarized in this fact sheet. The full health consultation is posted online [at this link](#).

What environmental data did ATSDR not consider?

ATSDR did not have enough data to evaluate all the contaminants that people may be exposed to downwind of Sauget's industrial center.

- Outdoor air monitoring did not include all potential contaminants:
 - » Multiple industries in Sauget are known to release VOCs to the air, but monitoring for VOCs was very limited.
 - » Hydrochloric acid and similar contaminants are released by local industries but have not been measured in air.
- According to EPA data, local surface waters and fish are contaminated by historical releases from multiple industrial sources. ATSDR did not evaluate surface water and fish contaminant data as part of this health consultation.
- It is likely that metals from past industrial releases have contaminated surface soils downwind of industrial areas. ATSDR did not evaluate soil data for this report.

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Additional Resources

- East Side Health District may provide lead testing for children: www.eastsidehealthdistrict.org/nursing
- Read more about lead poisoning prevention in Illinois: dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-poisoning-prevention
- Learn about possible sources of lead exposure from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/about
- Learn more about lead in drinking water from EPA. www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water
- Learn about environmental odors and potential health impacts from ATSDR: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/odors/about