

Appendix A

MDPH and ATSDR

Responses to Public Comments on Hatheway and Patterson Company Public Health Assessment

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Center for Environmental Health (CEH), Environmental Toxicology Program (ETP) received and responded to one set of comments for the Hatheway and Patterson site Public Health Assessment as received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 office.

Comment: Text referencing activities since 1998 should be added to the Site History section. The Site History section from the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report (April 2004) by TRC Corporation should be referenced for more information on sampling activities since 1998 as well as the After Action Report (April 2004) regarding the 2003 removal action outside the fence perimeter.

Response: The Site History section has been revised to incorporate the sampling and soil removal activities discussed in these two reports and the reports have been added to the Reference section of this document. From 2002 to 2003, EPA collected and analyzed samples of soil, sediment, ground water, surface water, and fish for metals, SVOCs, and dioxins. In earlier investigations of the H&P property, soil was not tested for dioxins except in the SE quadrant and now this data gap has been addressed in the new data representing soil dioxin testing for all four quadrants. Like the SE quadrant, dioxin levels above comparison values were observed in soil samples from the other three quadrants.

Comment: Revise the entire On-Site Contamination section to reflect the findings/new data described in the draft RI Report.

Response: The On-site Contamination section has been revised to include the sampling data reported in the RI Report. The Discussion section of the PHA has been revised to reflect these new data for testing done on samples of soil, sediment, ground water, surface water, and fish. The new soil data confirmed that contamination is largely present in the NE quadrant of the site where the wood treatment processes occurred. In the section of the Discussion called "Evaluation of Health Effects," the maximum arsenic in soil concentration was changed to reflect the new data from EPA; however, the results did not affect the risk assessment calculations. Earlier investigation of the site did not include testing of the soil (other than soil from the SE quadrant) for dioxins and now this data gap has been addressed. Dioxin was detected at levels above the chronic child EMEG value (50 ng/kg) in soil samples collected from the other three quadrants. Levels were highest for the SE quadrant.

As with earlier data for groundwater, PCP and arsenic were elevated in samples from the NE and SE quadrants. However, whether groundwater flow is in the direction of residences and/or private wells or garden wells still needs to be clarified. The data gap

was noted in the Recommendations section. One of four on-site sediment samples tested above comparison levels for arsenic but was within background soil levels for this metal. PCP and dioxin were detected at levels above comparison values in samples of fish collected from on-site areas of the Rumford River and also from water bodies downstream of the site (e.g., Fulton Pond). Furthermore, after analyzing these new fish data, it was determined that the fish advisory covering Glue Factory Pond Dam, north of the site to as far downstream of the site as Norton Reservoir, does not need to be changed. However, the recommendation for additional fish testing downstream of the site, especially from Norton Reservoir, remains as the new fish data do not include data for fish from this water body.

Comment: In the Conclusions section, item #3, the word “remedial” should be changed to “removal.”

Response: “Remedial” was changed to “soil removal.”

Appendix B

Public Health Fish Consumption Advisories

Letter to Mansfield Board of Health Re: Provisional Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory for Fulton, Kingman & Cabot ponds, and the Norton Reservoir (October 19, 1998).

Letter to Mansfield Board of Health Re: Updated Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory for Fulton, Kingman & Cabot ponds, and the Norton Reservoir (June 30, 1999).

Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory Poster (October, 1998/ Updated June 1999).



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
GOVERNOR

~~WILLIAM D. O'LEARY~~
SECRETARY

OWARD K. KOH, M.D., MPH
COMMISSIONER

October 19, 1998

Scott Leite, Agent
Mansfield Board of Health
50 West Street
Mansfield, MA 02048

Dear Mr. Leite:

Enclosed please find a copy of a Provisional Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory that is being issued effective immediately for the Rumford River and associated impoundments, i.e. Fulton, Kingman and Cabot ponds, and the Norton Reservoir. When the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) issues its Public Health Fish Consumption Advisories, its usual policy is to first obtain fish tissue sampling data for the water body of concern. Fish tissue sampling data are not currently available for these water bodies in Mansfield. However, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) and Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) asked MDPH to consider issuing a provisional fish consumption advisory for the following reasons:

- 1) Dioxin compounds have been identified in surface water and near the former Hatheway and Patterson sites in Mansfield. Dioxin compounds have a high potential for bioconcentration in fish.
- 2) It is not feasible to obtain fish tissue sampling data in a timely way because of the limited availability of laboratory resources nationwide for these analytes and the technical requirements involved in the analysis.

In this particular case, MDPH believes it would be a proactive and prudent public health measure to issue a provisional advisory without waiting for results of fish tissue sampling.

We have asked the MDEP to pursue arrangements with the US. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to obtain fish tissue sampling. We have been informed by DEP that staff from those agencies as well as DFW are working together to develop a fish sampling protocol for

these water bodies, and DPH has requested the opportunity to review and comment on the protocol.

We would appreciate it if you could arrange to post this important provisional advisory information at the town offices and at the water bodies themselves. We have attached a representative poster and will be happy to provide you with any assistance you may need in accomplishing local notification. We would be interested in translating the provisional advisory and posting into any languages you feel are relevant to these water bodies based on the types of populations that you may know of that use this resource. For questions or concerns regarding posting or health education and outreach activities, we can be reached at (617) 624-5757 for follow-up assistance. You should know that you will soon be receiving an updated Freshwater Fish Consumption Advisory List, as we have recently received new fish testing data from MDEP that is currently under review.

Sincerely



Elaine T. Krueger, Chief,
Environmental Toxicology Unit
Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment

Cc:— Interagency Committee for Fish Toxics
Carol Rowan West, DEP-ORS
Robert Maietta, DEP-OWM
Oscar Pancorbo, DEP-WES
Julienne Nassif, DPH-SLI
Stephanie Lentz, DPH-BEHA-EEU
Richard Keller, DFW
Suzanne K. Condon, Director, BEHA
Martha Steele, Deputy Director, BEHA
Gerard Martin, DEP-SERO
Steve Hurley, DFW
Stephen Novick, EPA

PROVISIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY:
RUMFORD RIVER; FULTON, KINGMAN, AND CABOT PONDS;
NORTON RESERVOIR

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has reviewed surface water data generated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) for the Rumford River downstream of the former Hatheway & Patterson site in Mansfield. The Rumford River system downstream from this site includes Fulton, Kingman, and Cabot ponds, and the Norton Reservoir. Dioxin compounds were detected in water samples and in other media. MDEP and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) have asked MDPH to consider issuing a provisional fish consumption advisory for the following reasons:

- 1) Dioxin compounds have a high potential for bioconcentration in fish.
- 2) It is not feasible to obtain fish sampling data in a timely way because of the limited availability of laboratory resources nationwide for these analytes and the technical requirements involved in the analysis.

MDPH has issued the following Provisional Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory:

RECOMMENDATION

All persons should refrain from consuming any fish caught in the Rumford River, Fulton Pond, Kingman Pond, Cabot Pond, or the Norton Reservoir until such time that fish testing results become available.

For more information, contact:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment (617) 624-5757

October, 1998



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
Governor

JANE SWIFT
Lieutenant Governor

WILLIAM D. O'LEARY
Secretary

HOWARD K. KOH, MD, MPH
Commissioner

June 30, 1999

Scott Leite, Agent
Mansfield Board of Health
50 West Street
Mansfield, MA 02048

Dear Mr. Leite:

Enclosed please find an updated Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory for the Rumford River and associated impoundments, i.e., Fulton, Kingman, and Cabot ponds and the Norton Reservoir. As you recall, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) issued a provisional advisory for these water bodies in October 1998 following review of limited environmental sampling data (i.e., soil and surface water data from the Hathaway and Patterson site in Mansfield). The advisory was issued as a precautionary measure in light of the propensity of dioxin in surface water to bioconcentrate in fish and the infeasibility of obtaining fish data in a timely manner.

Since then, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) to develop a fish survey protocol and conduct additional fish sampling. MDPH provided comments to the USEPA on this protocol. Results reviewed by MDPH following this sampling effort have confirmed the presence of dioxin in fish in this river system at levels higher than background fish tissue concentrations for North America. Individuals, particularly avid recreational fishers, who routinely eat fish caught from this river could experience elevated health risks. For this reason, MDPH is issuing a regular MDPH public health fish consumption advisory. In addition, MDPH has advised USEPA to conduct additional fish sampling from downstream areas (i.e., Norton Reservoir) and upstream areas (i.e., Glue Factory Pond in Foxborough). A copy of the full health consultation for the Hathaway and Patterson site, which contains all of the details, discussion, conclusions, and recommendations, has been forwarded to you under separate cover.

We have enclosed with this letter an updated poster and advisory. As before, we would appreciate it if you could arrange to post this important advisory information at the town offices and at the water bodies themselves. We would be interested in translating the advisory and posting into any languages you feel are relevant to these water bodies based on the types of populations that you may know of that use these resources.

We would be happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you might have with respect to this investigation. You may also wish to coordinate with the Norton and Foxborough boards of health, which are also involved with this issue. Please do not hesitate to call us at 617-624-5757 if we can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Elaine T. Krueger, Chief, Environmental Toxicology Unit
Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment

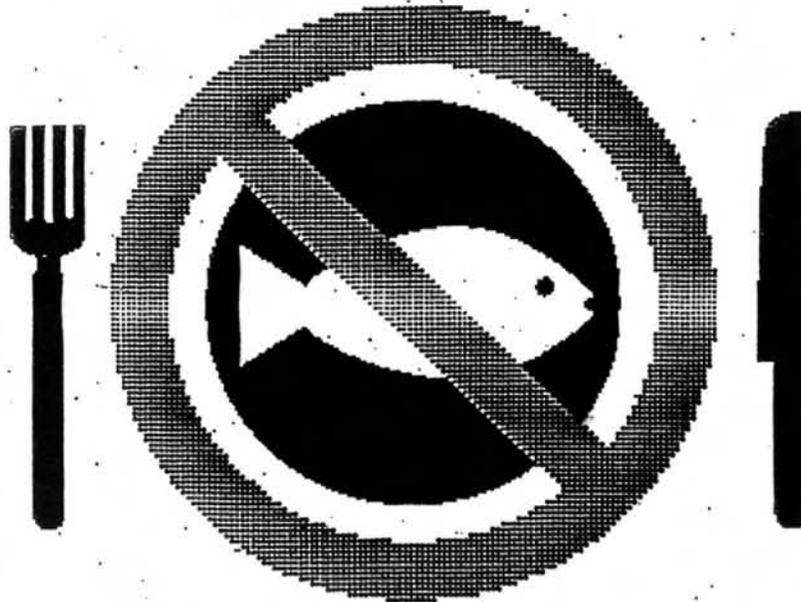
cc: Suzanne K. Condon, BEHA
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Massachusetts Interagency Committee for Fish Toxics
Stephen Novick, U.S. EPA
Richard Haworth, U.S. EPA
Beth Timm, ATSDR
Gerard Martin, MDEP-SERO
Scott Sayers, MDEP-SERO
Steve Hurley, MDFW

**PUBLIC HEALTH FISH CONSUMPTION
ADVISORY**

RUMFORD RIVER

from Glue Factory Pond Dam in Foxborough, through Mansfield
and Norton, including

**FULTON, KINGMAN, & CABOT PONDS
NORTON RESERVOIR**



CONTAMINANT RELEASE
Former Hatheway & Patterson site in Mansfield

DIOXINS AND PESTICIDES

DO NOT EAT FISH
CATCH & RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health: 617-624-5757

October, 1998
June, 1999 Update

Appendix C

ATSDR Glossary of Environmental Health Terms

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal public health agency with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, and 10 regional offices in the United States. 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 diseases related to toxic substances. ATSDR is not a regulatory agency, unlike the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is the federal agency that develops and enforces environmental laws to protect the environment and human health.

This glossary defines words used by ATSDR in communications with the public. It is not a complete dictionary of environmental health terms. If you have questions or comments, call ATSDR's toll-free telephone number, 1-888-42-ATSDR (1-888-422-8737).

Absorption

The process of taking in. For a person or animal, absorption is the process of a substance getting into the body through the eyes, skin, stomach, intestines, or lungs.

Acute

Occurring over a short time [compare with **chronic**].

Acute exposure

Contact with a substance that occurs once or for only a short time (up to 14 days) [compare with **intermediate duration exposure** and **chronic exposure**].

Additive effect

A biologic response to exposure to multiple substances that equals the sum of responses of all the individual substances added together [compare with **antagonistic effect** and **synergistic effect**].

Adverse health effect

A change in body function or cell structure that might lead to disease or health problems.

Aerobic

Requiring oxygen [compare with **anaerobic**].

Ambient

Surrounding (for example, *ambient* air).

Anaerobic

Requiring the absence of oxygen [compare with **aerobic**].

Analyte

A substance measured in the laboratory. A chemical for which a sample (such as water, air, or blood) is tested in a laboratory. For example, if the analyte is mercury, the laboratory test will determine the amount of mercury in the sample.

Analytic epidemiologic study

A study that evaluates the association between exposure to hazardous substances and disease by testing scientific hypotheses.

Antagonistic effect

A biologic response to exposure to multiple substances that is **less** than would be expected if the known effects of the individual substances were added together [compare with **additive effect** and **synergistic effect**].

Background level

An average or expected amount of a substance or radioactive material in a specific environment, or typical amounts of substances that occur naturally in an environment.

Biodegradation

Decomposition or breakdown of a substance through the action of microorganisms (such as bacteria or fungi) or other natural physical processes (such as sunlight).

Biologic indicators of exposure study

A study that uses (a) **biomedical testing** or (b) the measurement of a substance [an **analyte**], its **metabolite**, or another marker of exposure in human body fluids or tissues to confirm human exposure to a hazardous substance [also see **exposure investigation**].

Biologic monitoring

Measuring hazardous substances in biologic materials (such as blood, hair, urine, or breath) to determine whether exposure has occurred. A blood test for lead is an example of biologic monitoring.

Biologic uptake

The transfer of substances from the environment to plants, animals, and humans.

Biomedical testing

Testing of persons to find out whether a change in a body function might have occurred because of exposure to a hazardous substance.

Biota

Plants and animals in an environment. Some of these plants and animals might be sources of food, clothing, or medicines for people.

Body burden

The total amount of a substance in the body. Some substances build up in the body because they are stored in fat or bone or because they leave the body very slowly.

CAP

See **Community Assistance Panel**.

Cancer

Any one of a group of diseases that occurs when cells in the body become abnormal and grow or multiply out of control.

Cancer risk

A theoretical risk of for getting cancer if exposed to a substance every day for 70 years (a lifetime exposure). The true risk might be lower.

Carcinogen

A substance that causes cancer.

Case study

A medical or epidemiologic evaluation of one person or a small group of people to gather information about specific health conditions and past exposures.

Case-control study

A study that compares exposures of people who have a disease or condition (cases) with people who do not have the disease or condition (controls). Exposures that are more common among the cases may be considered as possible risk factors for the disease.

CAS registry number

A unique number assigned to a substance or mixture by the American Chemical Society Abstracts Service.

Central nervous system

The part of the nervous system that consists of the brain and the spinal cord.

CERCLA [see **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980]**

Chronic

Occurring over a long time (more than 1 year) [compare with **acute**].

Chronic exposure

Contact with a substance that occurs over a long time (more than 1 year) [compare with **acute exposure** and **intermediate duration exposure**].

Cluster investigation

A review of an unusual number, real or perceived, of health events (for example, reports of cancer) grouped together in time and location. Cluster investigations are designed to confirm case reports; determine whether they represent an unusual disease occurrence; and, if possible, explore possible causes and contributing environmental factors.

Community Assistance Panel (CAP)

A group of people, from a community and from health and environmental agencies, who work with ATSDR to resolve issues and problems related to hazardous substances in the community. CAP members work with ATSDR to gather and review community health concerns, provide information on how people might have been or might now be exposed to hazardous substances, and inform ATSDR on ways to involve the community in its activities.

Comparison value (CV)

Calculated concentration of a substance in air, water, food, or soil that is unlikely to cause harmful (adverse) health effects in exposed people. The CV is used as a screening level during the public health assessment process. Substances found in amounts greater than their CVs might be selected for further evaluation in the public health assessment process.

Completed exposure pathway [see **exposure pathway**].

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)

CERCLA, also known as **Superfund**, is the federal law that concerns the removal or cleanup of hazardous substances in the environment and at hazardous waste sites. ATSDR, which was created by CERCLA, is responsible for assessing health issues and supporting public health activities related to hazardous waste sites or other environmental releases of hazardous substances.

Concentration

The amount of a substance present in a certain amount of soil, water, air, food, blood, hair, urine, breath, or any other media.

Contaminant

A substance that is either present in an environment where it does not belong or is present at levels that might cause harmful (adverse) health effects.

Delayed health effect

A disease or injury that happens as a result of exposures that might have occurred in the past.

Dermal

Referring to the skin. For example, dermal absorption means passing through the skin.

Dermal contact

Contact with (touching) the skin [see **route of exposure**].

Descriptive epidemiology

The study of the amount and distribution of a disease in a specified population by person, place, and time.

Detection limit

The lowest concentration of a chemical that can reliably be distinguished from a zero concentration.

Disease prevention

Measures used to prevent a disease or reduce its severity.

Disease registry

A system of ongoing registration of all cases of a particular disease or health condition in a defined population.

DOD

United States Department of Defense.

DOE

United States Department of Energy.

Dose (for chemicals that are not radioactive)

The amount of a substance to which a person is exposed over some time period. Dose is a measurement of exposure. Dose is often expressed as milligram (amount) per kilogram (a measure of body weight) per day (a measure of time) when people eat or drink contaminated water, food, or soil. In general, the greater the dose, the greater the likelihood of an effect. An “exposure dose” is how much of a substance is encountered in the environment. An “absorbed dose” is the amount of a substance that actually got into the body through the eyes, skin, stomach, intestines, or lungs.

Dose (for radioactive chemicals)

The radiation dose is the amount of energy from radiation that is actually absorbed by the body. This is not the same as measurements of the amount of radiation in the environment.

Dose-response relationship

The relationship between the amount of exposure [**dose**] to a substance and the resulting changes in body function or health (response).

Environmental media

Soil, water, air, **biota** (plants and animals), or any other parts of the environment that can contain contaminants.

Environmental media and transport mechanism

Environmental media include water, air, soil, and **biota** (plants and animals). Transport mechanisms move contaminants from the source to points where human exposure can occur. The **environmental media and transport mechanism** is the second part of an **exposure pathway**.

EPA

United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Epidemiologic surveillance

The ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health data. This activity also involves timely dissemination of the data and use for public health programs.

Epidemiology

The study of the distribution and determinants of disease or health status in a population; the study of the occurrence and causes of health effects in humans.

Exposure

Contact with a substance by swallowing, breathing, or touching the skin or eyes. Exposure may be short-term [**acute exposure**], of intermediate duration, or long-term [**chronic exposure**].

Exposure assessment

The process of finding out how people come into contact with a hazardous substance, how often and for how long they are in contact with the substance, and how much of the substance they are in contact with.

Exposure-dose reconstruction

A method of estimating the amount of people's past exposure to hazardous substances. Computer and approximation methods are used when past information is limited, not available, or missing.

Exposure investigation

The collection and analysis of site-specific information and biologic tests (when appropriate) to determine whether people have been exposed to hazardous substances.

Exposure pathway

The route a substance takes from its source (where it began) to its end point (where it ends), and how people can come into contact with (or get exposed to) it. An exposure pathway has five parts: a **source of contamination** (such as an abandoned business); an **environmental media and transport mechanism** (such as movement through groundwater); a **point of exposure** (such as a private well); a **route of exposure** (eating, drinking, breathing, or touching), and a **receptor population** (people potentially or actually exposed). When all five parts are present, the exposure pathway is termed a **completed exposure pathway**.

Exposure registry

A system of ongoing followup of people who have had documented environmental exposures.

Feasibility study

A study by EPA to determine the best way to clean up environmental contamination. A number of factors are considered, including health risk, costs, and what methods will work well.

Geographic information system (GIS)

A mapping system that uses computers to collect, store, manipulate, analyze, and display data. For example, GIS can show the concentration of a contaminant within a community in relation to points of reference such as streets and homes.

Grand rounds

Training sessions for physicians and other health care providers about health topics.

Groundwater

Water beneath the earth's surface in the spaces between soil particles and between rock surfaces [compare with **surface water**].

Half-life ($t_{1/2}$)

The time it takes for half the original amount of a substance to disappear. In the environment, the half-life is the time it takes for half the original amount of a substance to disappear when it is changed to another chemical by bacteria, fungi, sunlight, or other chemical processes. In the human body, the half-life is the time it takes for half the original amount of the substance to disappear, either by being changed to another substance or by leaving the body. In the case of radioactive material, the half life is the amount of time necessary for one half the initial number of radioactive atoms to change or transform into another atom (that is normally not radioactive). After two half lives, 25% of the original number of radioactive atoms remain.

Hazard

A source of potential harm from past, current, or future exposures.

Hazardous Substance Release and Health Effects Database (HazDat)

The scientific and administrative database system developed by ATSDR to manage data collection, retrieval, and analysis of site-specific information on hazardous substances, community health concerns, and public health activities.

Hazardous waste

Potentially harmful substances that have been released or discarded into the environment.

Health consultation

A review of available information or collection of new data to respond to a specific health question or request for information about a potential environmental hazard. Health consultations are focused on a specific exposure issue. Health consultations are therefore more limited than a public health assessment, which reviews the exposure potential of each pathway and chemical [compare with **public health assessment**].

Health education

Programs designed with a community to help it know about health risks and how to reduce these risks.

Health investigation

The collection and evaluation of information about the health of community residents. This information is used to describe or count the occurrence of a disease, symptom, or clinical measure and to estimate the possible association between the occurrence and exposure to hazardous substances.

Health promotion

the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health.

Health statistics review

The analysis of existing health information (i.e., from death certificates, birth defects registries, and cancer registries) to determine if there is excess disease in a specific population, geographic area, and time period. A health statistics review is a descriptive epidemiologic study.

Indeterminate public health hazard

The category used in ATSDR's public health assessment documents when a professional judgment about the level of health hazard cannot be made because information critical to such a decision is lacking.

Incidence

The number of new cases of disease in a defined population over a specific time period [contrast with **prevalence**].

Ingestion

The act of swallowing something through eating, drinking, or mouthing objects. A hazardous substance can enter the body this way [see **route of exposure**].

Inhalation

The act of breathing. A hazardous substance can enter the body this way [see **route of exposure**].

Intermediate duration exposure

Contact with a substance that occurs for more than 14 days and less than a year [compare with **acute exposure** and **chronic exposure**].

In vitro

In an artificial environment outside a living organism or body. For example, some toxicity testing is done on cell cultures or slices of tissue grown in the laboratory, rather than on a living animal [compare with **in vivo**].

In vivo

Within a living organism or body. For example, some toxicity testing is done on whole animals, such as rats or mice [compare with **in vitro**].

Lowest-observed-adverse-effect level (LOAEL)

The lowest tested dose of a substance that has been reported to cause harmful (adverse) health effects in people or animals.

Medical monitoring

A set of medical tests and physical exams specifically designed to evaluate whether an individual's exposure could negatively affect that person's health.

Metabolism

The conversion or breakdown of a substance from one form to another by a living organism.

Metabolite

Any product of **metabolism**.

mg/kg

Milligram per kilogram.

mg/cm²

Milligram per square centimeter (of a surface).

mg/m³

Milligram per cubic meter; a measure of the concentration of a chemical in a known volume (a cubic meter) of air, soil, or water.

Migration

Moving from one location to another.

Minimal risk level (MRL)

An ATSDR estimate of daily human exposure to a hazardous substance at or below which that substance is unlikely to pose a measurable risk of harmful (adverse), noncancerous effects. MRLs are calculated for a route of exposure (inhalation or oral)

over a specified time period (acute, intermediate, or chronic). MRLs should not be used as predictors of harmful (adverse) health effects [see **reference dose**].

Morbidity

State of being ill or diseased. Morbidity is the occurrence of a disease or condition that alters health and quality of life.

Mortality

Death. Usually the cause (a specific disease, condition, or injury) is stated.

Mutagen

A substance that causes **mutations** (genetic damage).

Mutation

A change (damage) to the DNA, genes, or chromosomes of living organisms.

National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites (National Priorities List or NPL)

EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites in the United States. The NPL is updated on a regular basis.

No apparent public health hazard

A category used in ATSDR's public health assessments for sites where human exposure to contaminated media might be occurring, might have occurred in the past, or might occur in the future, but where the exposure is not expected to cause any harmful health effects.

No-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL)

The highest tested dose of a substance that has been reported to have no harmful (adverse) health effects on people or animals.

No public health hazard

A category used in ATSDR's public health assessment documents for sites where people have never and will never come into contact with harmful amounts of site-related substances.

NPL [see National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites]

Physiologically based pharmacokinetic model (PBPK model)

A computer model that describes what happens to a chemical in the body. This model describes how the chemical gets into the body, where it goes in the body, how it is changed by the body, and how it leaves the body.

Pica

A craving to eat nonfood items, such as dirt, paint chips, and clay. Some children exhibit pica-related behavior.

Plume

A volume of a substance that moves from its source to places farther away from the source. Plumes can be described by the volume of air or water they occupy and the direction they move. For example, a plume can be a column of smoke from a chimney or a substance moving with groundwater.

Point of exposure

The place where someone can come into contact with a substance present in the environment [see **exposure pathway**].

Population

A group or number of people living within a specified area or sharing similar characteristics (such as occupation or age).

Potentially responsible party (PRP)

A company, government, or person legally responsible for cleaning up the pollution at a hazardous waste site under Superfund. There may be more than one PRP for a particular site.

ppb

Parts per billion.

ppm

Parts per million.

Prevalence

The number of existing disease cases in a defined population during a specific time period [contrast with **incidence**].

Prevalence survey

The measure of the current level of disease(s) or symptoms and exposures through a questionnaire that collects self-reported information from a defined population.

Prevention

Actions that reduce exposure or other risks, keep people from getting sick, or keep disease from getting worse.

Public comment period

An opportunity for the public to comment on agency findings or proposed activities contained in draft reports or documents. The public comment period is a limited time period during which comments will be accepted.

Public availability session

An informal, drop-by meeting at which community members can meet one-on-one with ATSDR staff members to discuss health and site-related concerns.

Public health action

A list of steps to protect public health.

Public health advisory

A statement made by ATSDR to EPA or a state regulatory agency that a release of hazardous substances poses an immediate threat to human health. The advisory includes recommended measures to reduce exposure and reduce the threat to human health.

Public health assessment (PHA)

An ATSDR document that examines hazardous substances, health outcomes, and community concerns at a hazardous waste site to determine whether people could be harmed from coming into contact with those substances. The PHA also lists actions that need to be taken to protect public health [compare with **health consultation**].

Public health hazard

A category used in ATSDR's public health assessments for sites that pose a public health hazard because of long-term exposures (greater than 1 year) to sufficiently high levels of hazardous substances or **radionuclides** that could result in harmful health effects.

Public health hazard categories

Public health hazard categories are statements about whether people could be harmed by conditions present at the site in the past, present, or future. One or more hazard categories might be appropriate for each site. The five public health hazard categories are **no public health hazard**, **no apparent public health hazard**, **indeterminate public health hazard**, **public health hazard**, and **urgent public health hazard**.

Public health statement

The first chapter of an ATSDR **toxicological profile**. The public health statement is a summary written in words that are easy to understand. The public health statement explains how people might be exposed to a specific substance and describes the known health effects of that substance.

Public meeting

A public forum with community members for communication about a site.

Radioisotope

An unstable or radioactive isotope (form) of an element that can change into another element by giving off radiation.

Radionuclide

Any radioactive isotope (form) of any element.

RCRA [See **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (1976, 1984)**]

Receptor population

People who could come into contact with hazardous substances [see **exposure pathway**].

Reference dose (RfD)

An EPA estimate, with uncertainty or safety factors built in, of the daily lifetime dose of a substance that is unlikely to cause harm in humans.

Registry

A systematic collection of information on persons exposed to a specific substance or having specific diseases [see **exposure registry** and **disease registry**].

Remedial Investigation

The CERCLA process of determining the type and extent of hazardous material contamination at a site.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (1976, 1984) (RCRA)

This Act regulates management and disposal of hazardous wastes currently generated, treated, stored, disposed of, or distributed.

RFA

RCRA Facility Assessment. An assessment required by RCRA to identify potential and actual releases of hazardous chemicals.

RfD

See **reference dose**.

Risk

The probability that something will cause injury or harm.

Risk reduction

Actions that can decrease the likelihood that individuals, groups, or communities will experience disease or other health conditions.

Risk communication

The exchange of information to increase understanding of health risks.

Route of exposure

The way people come into contact with a hazardous substance. Three routes of exposure are breathing [**inhalation**], eating or drinking [**ingestion**], or contact with the skin [**dermal contact**].

Safety factor [see **uncertainty factor**]

SARA [see **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act**]

Sample

A portion or piece of a whole. A selected subset of a population or subset of whatever is being studied. For example, in a study of people the sample is a number of people chosen from a larger population [see **population**]. An environmental sample (for example, a small amount of soil or water) might be collected to measure contamination in the environment at a specific location.

Sample size

The number of units chosen from a population or environment.

Solvent

A liquid capable of dissolving or dispersing another substance (for example, acetone or mineral spirits).

Source of contamination

The place where a hazardous substance comes from, such as a landfill, waste pond, incinerator, storage tank, or drum. A source of contamination is the first part of an **exposure pathway**.

Special populations

People who might be more sensitive or susceptible to exposure to hazardous substances because of factors such as age, occupation, sex, or behaviors (for example, cigarette smoking). Children, pregnant women, and older people are often considered special populations.

Stakeholder

A person, group, or community who has an interest in activities at a hazardous waste site.

Statistics

A branch of mathematics that deals with collecting, reviewing, summarizing, and interpreting data or information. Statistics are used to determine whether differences between study groups are meaningful.

Substance

A chemical.

Substance-specific applied research

A program of research designed to fill important data needs for specific hazardous substances identified in ATSDR's **toxicological profiles**. Filling these data needs would allow more accurate assessment of human risks from specific substances contaminating the environment. This research might include human studies or laboratory experiments to determine health effects resulting from exposure to a given hazardous substance.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)

In 1986, SARA amended CERCLA and expanded the health-related responsibilities of ATSDR. CERCLA and SARA direct ATSDR to look into the health effects from substance exposures at hazardous waste sites and to perform activities including health education, health studies, surveillance, health consultations, and toxicological profiles.

Surface water

Water on the surface of the earth, such as in lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and springs [compare with **groundwater**].

Surveillance [see **epidemiologic surveillance**]

Survey

A systematic collection of information or data. A survey can be conducted to collect information from a group of people or from the environment. Surveys of a group of people can be conducted by telephone, by mail, or in person. Some surveys are done by interviewing a group of people [see **prevalence survey**].

Synergistic effect

A biologic response to multiple substances where one substance worsens the effect of another substance. The combined effect of the substances acting together is greater than the sum of the effects of the substances acting by themselves [see **additive effect** and **antagonistic effect**].

Teratogen

A substance that causes defects in development between conception and birth. A teratogen is a substance that causes a structural or functional birth defect.

Toxic agent

Chemical or physical (for example, radiation, heat, cold, microwaves) agents which, under certain circumstances of exposure, can cause harmful effects to living organisms.

Toxicological profile

An ATSDR document that examines, summarizes, and interprets information about a hazardous substance to determine harmful levels of exposure and associated health effects. A toxicological profile also identifies significant gaps in knowledge on the substance and describes areas where further research is needed.

Toxicology

The study of the harmful effects of substances on humans or animals.

Tumor

An abnormal mass of tissue that results from excessive cell division that is uncontrolled and progressive. Tumors perform no useful body function. Tumors can be either benign (not cancer) or malignant (cancer).

Uncertainty factor

Mathematical adjustments for reasons of safety when knowledge is incomplete. For example, factors used in the calculation of doses that are not harmful (adverse) to people. These factors are applied to the lowest-observed-adverse-effect-level (LOAEL) or the no-observed-adverse-effect-level (NOAEL) to derive a minimal risk level (MRL). Uncertainty factors are used to account for variations in people's sensitivity, for differences between animals and humans, and for differences between a LOAEL and a NOAEL. Scientists use uncertainty factors when they have some, but not all, the information from animal or human studies to decide whether an exposure will cause harm to people [also sometimes called a **safety factor**].

Urgent public health hazard

A category used in ATSDR's public health assessments for sites where short-term exposures (less than 1 year) to hazardous substances or conditions could result in harmful health effects that require rapid intervention.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Organic compounds that evaporate readily into the air. VOCs include substances such as benzene, toluene, methylene chloride, and methyl chloroform.

Other glossaries and dictionaries:

Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/OCEPAterms/>

National Center for Environmental Health (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/dls/report/glossary.htm>

National Library of Medicine

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/dictionaries.html>