

# Evaluation of Coldwater Creek Community Exposures

North St. Louis County, MO – Final Public Health Assessment

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a draft report in June 2018 evaluating community exposure to radiological contaminants in sediment, water, or soil while playing or living near Coldwater Creek.

**This fact sheet summarizes the findings of ATSDR's final report, released in April 2019. The final report incorporates responses to comments received on the draft report during a June through August 2018 public comment period. Several details of the evaluation changed, but ATSDR's overall conclusions remain the same. You can find the report at: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/coldwater\\_creek/](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/coldwater_creek/).**

## Key Findings and Recommendations

- **Radiological contamination in and around Coldwater Creek, prior to remediation activities, could have increased the risk of some types of cancer in people who played or lived there.**
  - *ATSDR recommends that potentially exposed residents or former residents share their potential exposure related to Coldwater Creek with their physicians as part of their medical history and consult their physicians promptly if new or unusual symptoms develop.*
  - *Upon request, ATSDR can facilitate a consultation between residents' personal physicians and medical specialists in environmental health.*
  - *ATSDR recommends that the state consider periodically updating analyses on cancer incidence, cancer mortality, and birth defects, as feasible.*
- **ATSDR does not recommend additional general disease screening for past or present residents around Coldwater Creek.** A physician will use a patient's individual history, symptoms, age, and gender to determine appropriate screening or diagnostic testing.
  - *ATSDR recommends that potentially exposed residents or former residents share their potential exposure related to Coldwater Creek with their physicians as part of their medical history and consult their physicians promptly if new or unusual symptoms develop.*

- **ATSDR supports ongoing efforts to identify and properly remediate radiological waste around Coldwater Creek.**
  - *To increase knowledge about contaminant distribution and allay community concerns, ATSDR recommends future sampling include*
    - ✓ *areas reported to have received soil or sediment moved from the Coldwater Creek floodplain (such as fill used in construction)*
    - ✓ *areas with possible soil or sediment deposited by flooding of major residential tributaries to Coldwater Creek*
    - ✓ *indoor dust in homes where yards have been cleaned up or require cleanup*
    - ✓ *sediment or soil remaining in basements that were directly flooded by Coldwater Creek in the past*
  - *ATSDR recommends signs to inform residents and visitors of potential exposure risks in areas around Coldwater Creek not yet investigated or cleaned up.*
  
- **Other exposure pathways of concern to the community could have contributed to risk. ATSDR is unable to quantify that risk.** No sampling data exist that would allow ATSDR to directly estimate exposures from other pathways, including inhaling dust blown from historical radiological waste storage piles and past consumption of local dairy or agricultural products.
  - *ATSDR recommends public health agencies continue to evaluate community concerns about exposure to the extent possible and educate the community about radiological exposures and health.*
  - *ATSDR will remain available to provide, upon request, further technical assistance to the public, partner agencies, or other stakeholders.*

## Where to Learn More

ATSDR: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)  
ATSDR Coldwater Creek Site: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/coldwater\\_creek](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/coldwater_creek)  
FUSRAP: [www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/FUSRAP/SLAPS.aspx](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/FUSRAP/SLAPS.aspx)  
Missouri Health: [health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/chronic/cancerinquiry](http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/chronic/cancerinquiry)

For questions about ATSDR activities at this site, contact the site team at [ColdwaterCreek@cdc.gov](mailto:ColdwaterCreek@cdc.gov).