

Summary of November 18, 2013 ATSDR Call with the CAP

CDC/ATSDR participants: Frank Bove, Tina Forrester, Angela Ragin-Wilson, Perri Ruckart, Ed Murray, Jason Broehm, Tiffany Fell, Christopher Stallard, Eddie Shanley

Community and other participants: Jerry Ensminger, Mike Partain, Dennis Call (staffer for Senator Burr)

Updates on Health Studies:

- Perri Ruckart updated the CAP on the status of the birth defects/childhood cancer, civilian worker mortality, and adverse birth outcomes studies.
 - ATSDR submitted the revised birth defects/childhood cancer manuscript to Environmental Health on 10/28/13. The journal has the revised manuscript under editorial review.
 - We are responding to peer reviewers' comments for the mortality study of former civilian workers.
 - CDC/ATSDR is reviewing the adverse birth outcomes study in the scientific clearance process.
- Angela Ragin-Wilson provided an update for the mortality study of former active duty Marines/Navy personnel.
 - We received comments from CDC's Office of Science and National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. We are responding to the comments and plan to submit a revised manuscript for approval before the Thanksgiving holiday. When asked, ATSDR estimated that the manuscript would be approved by CDC within 2 weeks of submitting the revised manuscript.
- Eddie Shanley provided an update for the male breast cancer study.
 - Three staff members traveled to the National Personnel Records Center headquarters in St. Louis on November 4-8, 2013 and are currently there to collect military personnel files data.
 - We are collecting information on approximately 450 male Marines which include both cases of male breast cancer and controls.
 - We anticipate needing 4-5 months to enter and clean the data and produce a final dataset for analysis.
- Ed Murray provided an update on the feasibility of the cancer incidence study.
 - ATSDR met with leadership from CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control on 11/7/13. We will be scheduling further internal meetings between subject matter experts at ATSDR and CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control.
 - ATSDR invited CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control to speak at the next in-person CAP meeting.

Update on the Health Assessment Activities

- Tina Forrester provided an update on ATSDR's health assessment activities.
 - We expect to have a first draft of the revised drinking water pathway completed today.
 - After the revised document is cleared internally, it will be sent out for public comment. When asked, ATSDR said the Department of Navy (DON) will be able to review at this point as well (no plans to share with DON prior to public comment).
 - ATSDR is reviewing available data for the vapor intrusion evaluation.

CAP Nomination Process

- There are three vacancies on the CAP.
- We need to have a uniform and standard approach to select new CAP members. The process should convey expectations to the nominees and ensure that the selected members fully commit to participation on the CAP.
- Requirements for CAP members include being able to physically attend in-person CAP meetings, participate in monthly conference calls and access and use a computer.
- Nominees will need to provide information about their background and a statement of their interest in the CAP.
- Nominees will need to provide written responses to questions such as how they are affiliated with Camp Lejeune and what they can contribute to the CAP.
- CAP members suggested they should be able to follow up with nominees individually if they have any questions.
- Jerry Ensminger nominated Ken Cantor as an independent expert to replace Devra Davis who has been inactive. Jerry Ensminger requested that Cantor be seated as a technical expert and join the CAP before the next in-person CAP meeting.

Action Items

- Frank Bove will send information and references to the CAP on the complex analysis methods and issues with data interpretation for the mortality study.
- Eddie Shanley will update the CAP on the estimate number of study subjects in the male breast cancer study on the next CAP call.
- Angela Ragin-Wilson will share the proposed questions for nominees with the CAP members and send the questions out to the nominees.