

*Required action relating to water contamination at Camp Lejeune.*

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is the federal entity congressionally mandated under the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) to perform epidemiological and other human health studies on National Priority List Superfund sites. ATSDR is the lead Federal health entity studying the effects of water contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

In 2009, the National Academies of Science released a literature review entitled, "Contaminated Water Supplies at Camp Lejeune - Assessing Potential Health Effects", which was mandated by section 318 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 120 Stat. 2143) for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review and evaluation of the available scientific and medical evidence regarding associations between prenatal, child, and adult exposure to drinking water contaminated with trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene at Camp Lejeune. In that review, the National Academies of Sciences did not conduct a health risk assessment of trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, benzene, and vinyl chloride.

The committee recognizes the importance of ensuring the dissemination of accurate information regarding the contaminants that were present in Camp Lejeune's water supply and associated adverse health effects to ensure the information does not mislead or confuse the public, and dissuade potentially affected persons from participating in planned scientific research studies involving the contamination. In this regard, the committee is concerned about characterizations of the 2009 National Academies of Sciences literature review in the public domain, including letters sent by the Department of the Navy on January 25, 2011 to Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Registrants. The discovery of records and dissemination of accurate information pertaining to the contamination of Camp Lejeune drinking water systems should not depend on specific requests from Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Registrants, but rather on a shared goal of ensuring the scientific accuracy of the studies conducted pursuant to the Annual Plan of Work of the ATSDR and the responsibility of the Secretary of the Navy to provide relevant information.

Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to:

(1) issue a revised corrected letter to Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Registrants that the 2009 National Academies of Science literature review did not conduct a health risk assessment of benzene and vinyl chloride, and ensure that all official correspondence sent to the public and all information present on Department of the Navy and United States Marine Corps websites and other public domains references the correction to provide the public with accurate information about possible human health effects of exposure to toxic water;

(2) finalize the communications agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry regarding the procedure for the public release of information pursuant to section 7.5 of the Department of the Navy - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Memorandum of Understanding;

(3) retract and remove the United States Marine Corps July 2010 booklet entitled, "Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water: Questions and Answers" from the United States Marine Corps website and other public domains;

(4) replace the United States Marine Corps July 2010 publication of the above referenced booklet with a revised booklet that-

(A) is coordinated with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry prior to its release;

(B) acknowledges the significance of trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, benzene, and vinyl chloride contaminants that were present in Camp Lejeune's water supply; and

(C) addresses and reflects the concerns that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has expressed in formal written correspondence to the Department of the Navy; and

(5) certify in writing to the Committees on Armed Services for the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than August 15, 2011, that the actions contained in subparagraphs (1) through (4) have been completed.