



Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

JUL 27 1993

Brigadier Lawrence H. Livingston
Commanding General
Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base
PSC 20004
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-0004

Dear General Livingston:

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is part of the U.S. Public Health Service. ATSDR's mission is to prevent or mitigate adverse human health effects and diminished quality of life resulting from exposure to hazardous substances in the environment. ATSDR is responsible for preparing public health assessments according to the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund) section 104 (i) (6) (42 U.S.C. 9604 (i) (6)). As mandated by that law, ATSDR conducts public health assessments of hazardous waste sites listed or proposed for listing on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL).

ATSDR personnel have been working closely with the MCB Camp Lejeune Environmental Management Division staff to gather information for the public health assessment. The document will discuss available information about site-related hazardous substances and evaluate whether exposure to them -- in the past, present, or future -- might cause adverse health effects in members of the community. Enclosed is a description of the public health assessment process at federal facilities.

ATSDR personnel have reviewed the Camp LeJeune 1990 Site Summary Report and are concerned about Site 28, Hadnot Point Burn Dump, which is currently the Orde Recreational Area. The pond at that location is stocked with fish and used for recreational fishing. On page 3-81 of the Site Summary Report dated September 1990, subheading "Tissue," fish sampling data from 1984 are presented. The reported polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) levels in fish (8 - 11 parts per million) from the pond were five times higher than the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Action Level of 2 parts per million. ATSDR is concerned that the levels of PCBs in those fish represent a health hazard to people who eat fish from that pond. However, the summary data do not specify what species of fish were sampled, the size of the fish, whether samples were whole fish or fillets, composites or individual fish.

→ data was given in µg/l for tissue? µg/kg or mg/kg normally used for tissue

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We are aware that you plan to conduct more fish sampling. However, until the analytical results are available, ATSDR recommends that the pond at the Orde Recreational Area be posted "catch and release fishing only." Additionally, ATSDR recommends that future analysis include fillets (skin-on where appropriate) from individual fish (edible species) rather than composite samples. The composites only provide an average contaminant concentration and do not reflect the range of contaminant levels in individual fish. ATSDR will reevaluate the need for continued posting at the pond once the new data are available. *Spring 94*

ATSDR also has concerns about the fish contamination detected in Wallace and Bear Head Creeks. In order to evaluate whether or not people are being exposed to contaminants that are of public health concern, we need analysis of the species and size of fish which are most likely consumed by recreational or subsistence fishermen. Analysis of individual "predator" fish (including skin where appropriate) is also recommended. Fish collected for chemical analysis from those creeks (Draft Ecological Risk Assessment for Operable Unit No. 2 - Sites 6, 9, and 82, June 1993) were an average of 2 inches in length. The fish sampled, although contaminated, were too small to be considered edible. Therefore, further sampling of the edible species is indicated.

ATSDR would like a copy of future sampling results when they are available. If you have any questions or comments, please have your staff, write, or fax Ms. Carole Hossom, Federal Programs Branch at:

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Sincerely yours,

C. Harold Emmett
for Robert C. Williams, P.E., DEE
Director
Division of Health Assessment
and Consultation

Enclosure

cc:

Mr. Robert Warren, MCB Camp Lejeune
Mr. Neal Paul, MCB Camp Lejeune
Captain W. Thomas, NEHC
Yvonne Walker, NEHC

ATSDR AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROCESS
AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is part of the U.S. Public Health Service. ATSDR's mission is to prevent or mitigate adverse human health effects and diminished quality of life resulting from exposure to hazardous substances in the environment.

The public health assessment is the cornerstone ATSDR uses to address public health issues associated with hazardous waste sites. The document discusses available information about site-related hazardous substances and evaluates whether exposure to them -- in the past, present, or future -- might cause adverse health effects in members of the community.

ATSDR is responsible for preparing public health assessments according to the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund) section 104 (i)(6) (42 U.S.C. 9604 (i)(6)). As mandated by that law, ATSDR conducts public health assessments of hazardous waste sites listed or proposed for listing on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL). ATSDR also responds to requests (petitions) to conduct public health assessments.

Three primary sources of information are used in a public health assessment: environmental data, community health concerns, and health outcome data. ATSDR does not routinely perform environmental sampling. The environmental data used in public health assessments are provided by the Department of Defense (DOD) component involved; EPA, state, and local environmental and health agencies; and other groups or individuals. In addition, ATSDR health assessors conduct site visits to observe firsthand current conditions at the site, land use, public accessibility, and demographic characteristics of the nearby community.

Concerns the community has about health are gathered to determine if specific health effects are being experienced by people who live or work near the site. Information from the public also helps ATSDR determine how people may have been or might be exposed to hazardous substances in the environment. Throughout the public health assessment process, ATSDR staff members talk with people living or working at or near the site about their site-related health concerns. Other sources of community health concerns are records from the installation's Public Affairs Office, EPA's Community Relations representative, and state and local health and environmental agencies.

Health outcome databases document health effects that occur in populations. Those data, which come from sources such as state tumor registry databases, birth defects databases, vital

statistics records, or other records, may provide information about the general health of the community living near a site. Other more specific records, such as hospital and medical records and records from site-specific health studies, may be used.

Demographic data that provide information on population characteristics (e.g., age, sex, socioeconomic status) are used when analyzing health outcome data.

ATSDR identifies actual and perceived site-related health effects and the level of public health hazard posed by the site. ATSDR then makes recommendations to the appropriate DOD components, EPA, and relevant state and local agencies on preventing or alleviating human exposures to site-related contaminants. When indicated, ATSDR identifies a need for any follow-up health activities -- such as epidemiologic studies, registries or community health education. Finally, ATSDR provides a mechanism to re-evaluate health issues as site conditions change (e.g., after site remediation or changes in land use) or when new data or information are available.