

M67001.AR.006738
MCB CAMP LEJUENE
5090.3a

LETTER AND U S EPA REGION IV COMMENTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT
INITIAL RELEASE FOR REVIEW MCB CAMP LEJEUNE NC
2/21/1995
U S EPA REGION IV



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IV

345 COURTLAND STREET, N.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30365

FEB 21 6 53 AM '95

FEB 21 1995

Mr. Max M. Howie, Jr., Chief
Program Evaluation, Records,
and Information Services Branch
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road (E-56)
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

RE: Comments on the Public Health Assessment for U.S. Marine
Corps Camp Lejeune, Onslow County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Howie:

Enclosed please find a copy of the U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA), Region IV, Water Management Division's
comments on the Public Health Assessment for the U.S. Marine
Corps Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. If you have any questions
about these comments, please contact Mr. Glenn Adams of my staff
at 404-347-3866 (ext. 6661).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beverly Houston".

Beverly Houston
Associate Division Director
Water Management Division

Enclosure

cc: Cynthia C. Dougherty, Office of Ground Water
and Drinking Water

COMMENTS

1. Page 18, Table 2

This table provides a column which lists Potential Health Effects to the exposed populations. In the sub-column entitled Cancer Risk Increase the word "No" is used for populations that the increased cancer risk is less than 5.5×10^{-5} . This word should be changed to "not likely" or "slightly". The word "no" indicates that there is no potential for increased cancer risk. This is incorrect. Any exposure to a carcinogen increases the risk of contracting cancer even if it is a very incremental increase. Also, the table uses a footnote to give the cutoff value considered to be an acceptable cancer risk level (5.5×10^{-5}). This acceptable risk level should be discussed in the text of the document.

2. Page 28, Table 3

This table references the drinking water standards as being established in 1991. The standards or Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for 1,2-dichloroethylene (1,2-DCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) were promulgated in January of 1991, but the other MCLs were promulgated in July of 1987 (trichloroethylene (TCE) and vinyl chloride) and July of 1992 (methylene chloride). Also, the table incorrectly references the MCL for 1,2-DCE. The value is given as 7 ppb when it should be 70 ppb. It is recommended that the table specifically identify DCE in the table as 1,2-DCE.

3. Page 29, Table 4

This table provides a column which lists the potential for health effects to the exposed populations. In the column under cancer risk increase the word "No" is used for populations that the increased cancer risk is less than 5.5×10^{-5} . This word should be changed to "low" or "slightly". The word no indicates that there is no potential for increased cancer risk. This is incorrect. Any exposure to a carcinogen increases the risk of contracting cancer even if it is a very incremental increase. Also, the table uses a footnote to give the cutoff for what is considered an acceptable cancer risk level (5.5×10^{-5}). This acceptable risk level should be discussed in the text of the document.

4. Page 30

The first paragraph incorrectly states that "TCE, PCE, and 1,2-DCE levels in drinking water were not regulated until the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was amended in 1991." The MCL for TCE was promulgated in July of 1987 not in 1991. Also, the SDWA was not amended in 1991. The only amendment to the SDWA was in 1986. The MCLs for PCE and 1,2-DCE were promulgated in 1991.

5. General Comment

Any relevant and appropriate changes to the "Summary" should be made to address the above comments.