



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333
May 21, 1993

received
5-26-93

Mr. Franco La Greca
Code 1823
Remedial Project Manager
Northern Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop #82
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113-2090

Dear Mr. La Greca:

Enclosed please find two copies of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Public Health Assessment - Public Comment Release for the Newport Naval Education/Training Center Site, dated May 21, 1993. This document is ATSDR's evaluation of data and information on the release of contaminants into the environment from the Newport Naval Education/Training Center Site, Middletown, Newport County, Rhode Island. The purpose of this document is to assess any current or future impact on public health.

The ATSDR will accept written comments from the public until June 25, 1993. Comments should be addressed to:
Ms. Dontanette Cohill, Program Analyst/Coordinator, Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, ATSDR, Mailstop E-56, 1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30333.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Ms. Dontanette Cohill at (404) 639-6070.

Sincerely yours,

Max M. Howe, Jr.

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

Enclosures

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Public Notice

Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Public Health Assessment for the Naval Education and Training Center will be available on May 26, 1993 at the following repositories:

- ◆ Newport Public Library, Aquidneck Park, Newport, Rhode Island
- ◆ Middletown Free Library, West Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island
- ◆ Portsmouth Free Public Library Association, 2658 East Main Rd, Portsmouth, RI

The 30-day Public Comment Period will run May 26 through June 25, 1993. Comments postmarked after that time will not be considered for revision of the document. Comments received during the public comment period will be logged and become part of the administrative record for the Public Health Assessment. Comments and responses will be included in an appendix to the final Public Health Assessment. Commenters' names will not be included in the Public Health Assessment, however, comments are subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. For that reason, individuals should exercise their own judgement concerning the inclusion of any personal health information or other confidential data in comments sent to ATSDR. Only written comments will be accepted. Comments should be directed to:

Dontanette Cohill
Program Analyst/Coordinator
ATSDR - Division of Health Assessment and Consultation
1600 Clifton Road, NE, (MS/E56)
Atlanta, GA 30333

If sufficient public comments are received, a public meeting may be held. Please contact Louise House at (617) 860-4314 or Maurice West (404) 639-6070 if you have questions.

Scheduled to run in:

Newport Daily News
101 Malbone Road
Newport, RI 02840
(401) 849-3300

Newport This Week
169 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840
(401) 849-7766

Public Health Assessments

What is ATSDR?

ATSDR is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a federal public health agency. ATSDR is part of the Public Health Service within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Created by Superfund legislation in 1980, 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.



What is a Public Health Assessment?

An ATSDR Public Health Assessment gathers information about hazardous substances at a site and evaluates whether exposure to those substances might cause any harm to people. Public Health Assessments consider --

- o what the levels (or "concentrations") of chemicals are at the site
- o whether people on or near the site might be exposed to the substances and how (through "exposure pathways" such as breathing air, drinking or contacting water, contacting or eating soil, or eating contaminated food)
- o what harm the substances at the site might cause to people (or the chemicals' "toxicity")
- o whether working or living near the site might affect people's health

To make those determinations, ATSDR looks at three primary sources of information --

- o **environmental data**, such as information on the chemicals at the site and how people could come in contact with the chemicals.
- o **health data**, including information on community-wide rates of illness, disease, and death compared with national and state rates.
- o **community concerns**, such as citizen reports about how the site affects their health or quality of life.

How Are Public Health Assessments Used?

Public Health Assessments advise the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and states on actions to reduce or prevent people's exposure to hazardous substances. They are used to develop Public Health Advisories and other recommendations to protect the public's health. They are also used to identify health studies or other actions -- such as environmental health education for the community and its health care providers -- that might be needed.



What Is the Community's Role in a Public Health Assessment?

The community has a key role to play in a Public Health Assessment and any activity that may follow. Throughout the Public Health Assessment, ATSDR talks with people living near the site--citizen groups, local leaders, and health professionals, among other community members--about their knowledge of the site and their health concerns related to the site. Health concerns are addressed in every Public Health Assessment for every site.

Two-way communication between the public and ATSDR is vital to a successful Public Health Assessment. For that reason, ATSDR has several mechanisms to keep the public involved and informed and to solicit information from the community, such as --

- o Public Availability Meetings where community members can meet individually with ATSDR staff.
- o Public Meetings during which community members can express ideas in a larger forum.
- o Community Advisory Panels, which work to inform ATSDR about community concerns and health information and, in turn, to inform the community about ATSDR activities and the status of the Public Health Assessment.
- o Other communication channels, such as contact with local citizen groups, political leaders, and health professionals, as well as articles in local newspapers and on television and radio stations.
- o Before the Public Health Assessment is complete, it is available in the community during the Public Comment Period. The Public Comment Period gives the community the opportunity to tell ATSDR how well the Public Health Assessment addresses concerns. To provide information back to the community, ATSDR responds to public comments in the final Public Health Assessment.

To Get More Information

Call or write:

Lydia Ogden Askew

Community Involvement Liaison

ATSDR-Division of Health Assessment and Consultation

1600 Clifton Road, NE (E32)

Atlanta, Georgia 30333

404/639-0609 (during the workday)

404/330-9543 (24 hours)
