



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment



Biweekly Bulletin January 27, 2010

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to children's environmental health. They are archived and searchable on our website:

http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins.

ICEH Highlights

Additions to CHE's Online Calendar

CHE's [searchable calendar of events](#) now lists upcoming deadlines for funding proposals and calls for conference abstracts. We invite partners to submit events and deadlines for inclusion in the calendar.

New Autism Working Group

CHE is initiating CHE-Autism, a working group dedicated to exploring the new paradigm of autism research and treatment in Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). CHE and Commonweal have had a strong interest in ASD for many years. Commonweal co-hosted a series of conferences over the past decade exploring the new paradigm of autism research and treatment. Two of the co-hosts of these conferences, Martha Herbert and Robert Hendren, have agreed to serve as science advisers to CHE-Autism. Michael Lerner will facilitate CHE-Autism initially with his colleague Sheila Opperman, who has been involved with autism work for years. CHE hopes to identify partners who would like to be candidates for the position of co-facilitators.

To join CHE-Autism contact info@healthandenvironment.org. For more information on the CHE Autism Working Group, please visit [its web page](#).

Announcements

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website:
<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

[Conference Highlights: Translating Science to Policy: Protecting Children's Environmental Health.](#)

This document summarizes the March 2009 symposium which reviewed 10 years of research findings from the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health and other scientists, discussed interventions stemming from this research, and identified strategies to advance policies that will reduce and prevent environmentally-related diseases such as asthma, developmental disorders and cancer in children living in urban communities.

[Call for comments: 2010 Strategic Planning Superfund Research Program.](#)

This plan will direct us in prioritizing the scope of the science, establishing an approach for attaining scientific balance and growth, enhancing translation, community outreach, and training along with developing guidelines for managing the program/decision-making. Questionnaires must be completed by January 29, 2010.

[Call for comments: Reconsideration of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency proposes to set different primary and secondary

standards than those set in 2008 to provide requisite protection of public health and welfare, respectively. Written comments on this proposed rule must be received by March 22, 2010, and public hearings are scheduled for February 2nd and 4th (see event #3 below).

[EPA strengthens air quality standard for nitrogen dioxide.](#)

This new one-hour standard will protect millions of Americans from peak short-term exposures, which primarily occur near major roads. Short-term exposures to NO₂ have been linked to impaired lung function and increased respiratory infections, especially in people with asthma.

[See related articles: [EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson says nitrogen dioxide rule will help poor communities](#) and [Chicago is the only U.S. metro area that would fail proposed nitrogen oxides limits](#)]

[EPA, Congressional Black Caucus announce joint Environmental Justice Tour.](#)

The joint EPA-CBC Environmental Justice Tour will visit several areas throughout the country to highlight environmental justice challenges faced by Americans in all communities.

[New report: The Health Case for Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act.](#)

In the 34 years since TSCA was enacted, the EPA has been able to require testing on just 200 of the more than 80,000 chemicals produced and used in the U.S., and just five chemicals have been regulated under this law.

[See a related article: [Stricter rules urged on toxic chemicals](#)]

[Call for comments: EPA seeks public input on use of modified grenade simulators at Camp Edwards.](#)

A 30-day public comment period begins January 20, 2010, for EPA's proposed agreement to allow the Massachusetts National Guard and other military agencies, to resume training using a reformulated pyrotechnic device, the M116A1 Hand Grenade.

[FDA, health organizations to study safety of medications taken during pregnancy.](#)

About two-thirds of women who deliver a baby have taken at least one prescription medication during pregnancy according to a journal article published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. There are very few clinical trials that test the safety of medications in pregnancy due to concerns about the health of the mother and child.

[Call for comments: Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis of the TVA Kingston site.](#)

The analysis is for the non-time-critical cleanup alternatives for restoration of the Swan Pond embayment area impacted by spilled fly ash and stabilization and closure of the failed dredge cell. Comments will be accepted until February 18th.

[Call for comments: Standards to protect Florida's waters.](#)

The proposed action, released for public comment and developed in collaboration with the state, would set a series of numeric limits on the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen, also known as "nutrients," that would be allowed in Florida's lakes, rivers, streams, springs and canals. Three hearings are scheduled for February 16, 17 and 18, 2010, in Tallahassee, Orlando, and West Palm Beach, respectively.

[See a related article: [EPA floats unique Fla. water quality rule](#)]

[Call for comments: EPA Definition of Solid Waste \(DSW\) rule.](#)

Consistent with EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's commitment to reach out to communities historically underrepresented in EPA decision-making, the agency is requesting public input on a draft plan for assessing the potential impacts of its hazardous waste recycling rule on low-income, minority and tribal populations. Comments are due by March 15, 2010, and public meetings and an online public roundtable are also scheduled.

[Environmental Public Health Tracking: State-to-State Peer Fellowship Program.](#)

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) invites applications from

interested candidates of non-EPHT funded states and territorial health agencies to serve as an ASTHO Tracking Fellow. Fellows are expected to pursue activities that strengthen their capacity to conduct and collaborate on EPHT activities. The duration of the project will be from March through May 2010. Applications must be received by February 26, 2010. Inquiries can be directed to Abraham G. Kulungara, MPH, director of Environmental Health, 571-527-3154 or akulungara@astho.org.

[Call for proposals: Exploring New Air Pollution -- Health Effects Links in Existing Datasets.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking applications proposing to use existing datasets from health studies to analyze health outcomes for which the link to air pollution is not well established, or to evaluate underlying heterogeneity in health responses among subgroups defined by susceptibility or extent and/or composition of exposure. Proposals are due by April 27, 2010.

[Call for proposals: Revitalizing Core Environmental Health Programs.](#)

The EHS-Net Research opportunity seeks to improve the practice of environmental health service programs by establishing a network of environmental health specialists (EHS) who collaborate with epidemiologists and laboratorians to conduct research to identify and prevent environmental risk factors contributing to foodborne and/or waterborne illness. Letters of Intent must be received by Friday February 12, 2010.

[Job opening: Tallahassee, Florida.](#)

The Florida Department of Health has an opening for a chief of community environmental health to begin in spring 2010. The closing date for applications is February 14, 2010.

[Job opening: Falls Church, Virginia.](#)

The Center For Health, Environment and Justice has an opening for a coordinator for its Childproofing Our Communities Campaign which works to protect children from exposure to environmental health hazards where they live, learn, play and pray.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

1) What does Chemical Contamination Cost Health Care?

Thursday January 28, 2010

1:00 p.m. Eastern time / 10:00 a.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Practice Greenhealth

A new report being released this month by Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families outlines the role of environmental contaminants in cancer, asthma, reproductive disorders, and other conditions. Learn about the report from a co-author and other leading researchers. Estimates of the proportion of the disease burden that can be attributed to toxic chemical exposures vary, ranging from 1 percent of all disease to 5 percent of childhood cancer, 10 percent of diabetes, Parkinson's disease, and neurodevelopmental deficits, and 30 percent of childhood asthma. A conservative estimate puts the health care cost savings attributable to a decline in the incidence of chronic disease due to reductions in chemical exposures at \$5 billion per year. The report illustrates the opportunity to prevent disease and reduce health-care expenditures by overhauling the chemical management system in the United States. Speakers will be Charlotte Brody, RN, from Safer Chemicals Healthy Families; Richard Clapp, DSc, MPH, of Boston University School of Public Health; and Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, of the Science and Environmental Health Network.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Lead-Safe Remodeling and Renovation Train-the-Trainer Program

Thursday and Friday, January 28 - 29, 2010
Los Angeles, California

Sponsor: Alliance for Healthy Homes in partnership with the Healthy Homes Collaborative

This class will help prepare organizations to become accredited trainers under EPA's new Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) rule. By April 2010, this rule will require virtually every contractor working in pre-1978 homes to complete an 8-hour course in lead safe work practices or face a Federal fine of up to \$37,500 a day. The Train-the-Trainer course does not certify participants to be accredited trainers under the rule, but rather gives participants background on the requirements of EPA's rule and instruction on how to most effectively deliver the new lead safe work practices course for renovators.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Vikki Paulus, vikki@healthyhomescollaborative.org

3) Public Hearings for Reconsideration of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone

February 2 (Virginia and Texas) and 4 (California), 2010

9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Arlington, Virginia; Houston, Texas; and Sacramento, California

see the website for location details

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA proposes to set different primary and secondary standards than those set in 2008 to provide requisite protection of public health and welfare, respectively. Written comments on this proposed rule can also be submitted and must be received by March 22, 2010.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: US EPA, a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov

4) Green Chemistry and Environmental Health

Wednesday February 3, 2010

3:00 p.m. Eastern / 2:00 p.m. Central / noon Pacific time

Sponsor: Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network

The speaker will be Dr. Linda Birnbaum, director of the US National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Toxicology Program.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

5) A Conversation with Linda Birnbaum, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Thursday February 4, 2010

10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

We will hear from Birnbaum on the priorities and challenges facing the NIEHS in the coming years as well as discuss other pressing environmental health concerns.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

6) DC Environmental Health Community Forum

Saturday February 6, 2010

10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Washington, DC

at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 901 G Street Northwest

Sponsor: The DC Environmental Health Collaborative

The purpose is to unveil a draft report on environmental health risks and engage District organizations and residents in a critique of the draft list of environmental health priorities. The forum will provide a warm lunch, children's activities and transportation available according to need. Please RSVP by January 27th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Joanne Perodin, 202-543-4033 ext. 12 or jperodin@cehn.org

7) Mercury Exposure, Nutritional Deficiencies and Metabolic Disruptions May Affect Learning in Children

Tuesday February 9, 2010

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The speaker will be Renee Dufault, MAT, of United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

8) Chemicals and Reproductive Health: The Male Predicament

Friday February 10, 2010

11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment Fertility/Reproductive Health Working Group

Confirmed speakers will be Theo Colborn, PhD, president of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX) and professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville; Shanna Swan, PhD, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, associate chair of research, obstetrics and gynecology; professor of environmental medicine, and professor of community and preventive medicine, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; and Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, science director of the Science and Environmental Health Network and the Collaborative on Health and the Environment.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Julia Varshavsky, julia@healthandenvironment.org

9) Green Cleanup Symposium: Integrating Green Approaches for Site Cleanup and Sustainable Reuse

Wednesday and Thursday, February 10 - 11, 2010

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at Drexel University

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

Topics include 1) The ABC's of Sustainable Reuse, 2) Cleaning up Properties While Using Green Practices, 3) Cutting-edge Analysis and Tools for Long-term Cleanups, 4) Initiatives Promoting Renewable Energy on Cleanup Sites, and 5) Ecological Revitalization at Contaminated Properties.

Price: \$75, or \$50 for nonprofit or government representatives

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Jennifer Britton, 215-895-2552 or cities@drexel.edu

10) Taking it to the Curbside: Engaging Communities to Create Sustainable Change for Health

Friday February 12, 2010, at 5:00 Eastern time

Boston, Massachusetts

at Harvard Medical School Joseph B. Martin Conference Center, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur

Sponsor: Association for Prevention Teaching and Research and other groups listed on the website

Conference organizers are currently accepting abstracts for poster presentations to be held during a lunch networking session at the workshop. They are looking for presentations on projects that illustrate collaborative efforts between researchers and community partners in capacity building and work towards sustainable health interventions. They want to provide an opportunity for people to share both the challenges they have faced and the strategies they have found successful. Abstract should specify how projects address the above goals and the academic-community partnership. Abstracts should be submitted by email to the address below.

Price:

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Dr. Ann DiGirolamo, 617-499-6608 or adigirolamo@challiance.org

11) 2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit

Tuesday through Friday, February 16 - 19, 2010

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Association of County & City Health Officials, Association of Schools of Public Health and others listed on the website

The 2010 Public Health Preparedness Summit, "Partners in Preparedness: Engaging a Community for a Successful Public Health Response," will strengthen and enhance the capabilities of public health professionals and other participants to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies.

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: phprep@naccho.org

12) Leadership In Green Health Care Course

February 27 - April 24, 2010

Sponsor: Teleosis Institute

Leadership In Green Health Care prepares health professionals to become leaders in the emerging discipline of Sustainable Medicine. Sustainable medicine recognizes the link between the environment, medicine and human health and seeks to provide better health care while protecting our limited environmental and medical resources. The

Leadership in Green Health Care course reviews the most up-to-date theory and research behind sustainable medicine and introduces participants to the best practices for initiating green health care -- from greening their offices, to offering affordable and renewable medical treatments, and promoting community and environmental health. Participants collaborate online to exchange strategies and pioneer ideas for effecting change within their communities and medical practices. The online, interactive dialogue among like-minded professionals creates a supportive and inspiring learning environment. Continuing education credits are available for physicians and nurses.

Price: \$945 for nonmembers, \$695 for members of Practice Greenhealth, \$350 for students in the health-care field; register by January 22nd to receive a \$100 discount

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

News and Journal Articles

[Genes, diet offer new clues to Parkinson's disease.](#)

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Researchers say they've spotted a new genetic risk factor for Parkinson's disease, as well as a link between the illness and two other factors, metabolism and vitamin B6. Business Week.

[Low level arsenic impairs glucose-stimulated insulin secretion in pancreatic beta-cells: Involvement of cellular adaptive response to oxidative stress.](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

Our studies suggest that low levels of arsenic provoke a cellular adaptive oxidative stress response which increases antioxidant levels, dampens ROS signaling involved in GSIS, and thus disturbs beta-cell function. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Current and future applications of toxicogenomics: Results summary of a survey from the HESI Genomics State of Science Subcommittee.](#)

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

The survey findings provide valuable information on the current state of the science toxicogenomics (TGx) applications, identifies key areas in which TGx will have an impact, as well as the key hurdles in applying TGx data to address issues. Environmental Health Perspectives

[Officials fear toxic ingredient in Botox could become terrorist tool.](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

A speck of botulinum toxin smaller than a grain of sand can kill a 150-pound adult. The multibillion-dollar market for anti-wrinkle drugs has spawned an underground network of online suppliers, who do not ask for prescriptions or identification. Washington Post.

[Study finds high PCB levels in NW Indiana waterway.](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

Researchers who took soil samples from the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal in heavily industrialized northwestern Indiana have found that it contains high levels of potentially cancer-causing PCBs. Associated Press.

[That new-car smell.](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

For many, the new-car smell is a bonus that comes with buying a new vehicle -- an olfactory reward to enjoy each time the owner slides behind the wheel. That smell, however, also could make them -- and their passengers -- sick. AOL Autos.

[More melamine-tainted milk products found in China.](#)

Monday, January 25, 2010

Melamine-tainted dairy products were pulled from convenience store shelves in southern China more than a year after hundreds of thousands of children had been sickened in a massive milk safety scandal, a government spokeswoman said Monday. Associated Press.

[Debate over fracking continues.](#)

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Wider use of hydraulic fracturing will help the United States increase its domestic energy supplies even as the practice draws concern about its possible impact on drinking water, Exxon Mobil Corp. Chairman and Chief Executive Rex Tillerson says. McClatchy Newspapers.

[Radiation offers new cures, and ways to do harm.](#)

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Americans today receive far more medical radiation than ever before. Without a doubt, radiation saves countless lives, and serious accidents are rare. But patients often know little about the harm that can result when safety rules are violated and ever more powerful and technologically complex machines go awry. New York Times.

[PVC, the poison in your home.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic, commonly referred to as vinyl, is one of the most hazardous consumer products ever created. East London Daily Dispatch, South Africa.

[New bylaw forces businesses to divulge use of toxic chemicals.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Pretty soon you'll be able to track just how many harmful chemicals your local dry cleaner, auto body shop, printer or medical lab uses and releases into the environment. Toronto CP24 TV, Ontario.

[See a related article: [REACH list of dangerous chemicals doubled](#)]

[Study suggests link between nuclear power plants, thyroid cancer.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Thyroid cancer rates in Pennsylvania soared in recent decades and radiation from nuclear power plants might be the cause, a study released Thursday said. Wilkes-Barre Citizen's Voice, Pennsylvania.

[Why Alzheimer's is called 'type 3 diabetes.'](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

The role of insulin in the brain and the link between Type 2 diabetes and Alzheimer's is a multi-faceted one. Studies have shown that diabetics have a 30 to 65 percent higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, and that obesity and diabetes can cause the brain to shrink. Toronto Star, Ontario.

[Lead paint rules require contractor certification.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

New EPA rules for lead paint removal go into effect April 22, adding a bit more time and cost to some home renovations. The agency estimates about 38 million homes and apartment units, or 40 percent of the housing stock, contain lead paint. Associated Press.

[Iraq littered with high levels of nuclear and dioxin contamination, study finds.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

More than 40 sites across Iraq are contaminated with high levels of radiation and dioxins, with three decades of war and neglect having left environmental ruin in large parts of the country, an official Iraqi study has found. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[Lead found in women's handbags.](#)

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Testing that revealed disturbingly high levels of lead has generated a landmark agreement involving two big retail chains that establishes, for the first time, limits on lead in women's handbags and wallets. ABC News.

[High cholesterol puts teens at risk of heart disease.](#)

Friday, January 22, 2010

One out of every five U.S. teenagers has a cholesterol level that increases the risk of heart disease, CDC officials reported, providing striking new evidence that obesity is

making more children prone to illnesses once primarily limited to adults. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [Michelle Obama asks mayors to help reduce obesity](#)]

[Industrial chemicals lurking in your bloodstream.](#)

Friday, January 22, 2010

Concern is heating up over whether common industrial chemicals found in plastics and other consumer goods could be harming our kids. BPA is just one of hundreds of industrial chemicals that may be in your blood or urine right now. Forbes.

[See a related article: [Killers in your kitchen: Gender-bending packaging, exploding floor cleaners and toasters more deadly than sharks...](#)]

[Study links Asia to smog component in Western US.](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Ozone blowing over from Asia is raising background levels of a major ingredient of smog in the skies over California, Oregon, Washington and other Western states, according to a new study appearing in the journal Nature. Associated Press.

[Mercury pollution a global problem.](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Concern about global mercury pollution has been mounting for decades and a recent expert report for the United Nations Environment Programme warned that mercury now appears to be present all over the world in concentrations that may affect people and wildlife. Durban Mercury, South Africa.

[See related articles: [Mountains of mercury](#) and [Ceremonial candles possible source of mercury contamination](#)]

[H1N1 flu's impact on pregnant women, children in Oregon.](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

The pandemic H1N1 strain of influenza continues to cause more trouble for pregnant women and children than typical flu, but its overall impact remains moderate, according to data released Tuesday by Oregon Public Health's Emerging Infections Program. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

[Kettleman City landfill growth sparks suit.](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

A group of Kettleman City residents is going to court to try to stop the expansion of a hazardous-waste landfill that they suspect has caused birth defects. Fresno Bee, California.

[Rickets on the rise due to change in children's lifestyles, say North-East medics.](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Changing lifestyles among children is leading to a Vitamin D deficiency and a rise in cases of rickets, North-East medical experts said today. Priestgate Northern Echo, United Kingdom.

[Shedding light on why omega-3 fatty acids may help the heart.](#)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

The more omega-3 that patients with coronary heart disease consumed, the slower their telomeres shrank. HealthDay.

[Prenatal exposure to flame-retardant compounds affects neurodevelopment of young children.](#)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Prenatal exposure to ambient levels of flame retardant compounds called polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) is associated with adverse neurodevelopmental effects in young children, according to researchers at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH) at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Science Daily.

[See a related article: [Younger mothers' breast milk has highest levels of flame retardants](#)]

[NYC to address PCB-contaminated caulk in schools.](#)

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New York City announced a pilot program Tuesday to address the problem of potentially hazardous PCBs in construction materials in some city schools. Associated Press.

[Are carpets and cookware toxic to your liver?](#)

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

A chemical used in carpets, cookware, food wrappers and many other consumer goods may cause liver damage, according to a recent study. The chemical, perfluorooctanic acid, or PFOA, is used to make fluoropolymers. Scotchgard and Teflon are made from PFOA. Fox News.

[See related articles: [Non-stick chemical linked to thyroid illness](#) and [Association between serum perfluorooctanoic acid \(PFOA\) and thyroid disease in the NHANES study](#)]

[What's in a cigarette? US to study ingredients.](#)

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

The Food and Drug Administration is working to lift the smokescreen clouding the ingredients used in cigarettes and other tobacco products. In June, tobacco companies must tell the FDA their formulas for the first time, just as drugmakers have for decades. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Study: Smokers with early lung cancer could double survival chances if they quit](#)]

[Smoke, sleep problems linked.](#)

Monday, January 18, 2010

More secondhand smoke exposure means less sleep for children with asthma, according to new research from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Cincinnati Enquirer, Ohio.

[See related articles: [Blood pressure harm from smoke 'may explain cot death'](#) and [High blood pressure link to smoking by mothers](#)]

[Chemicals coat apples decades after Alar scare.](#)

Monday, January 18, 2010

In 2005, the last year results were available, the U.S. Department of Agriculture found pesticide residues on 98 percent of the apples it tested. All the residue was at levels within federal guidelines. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Cholinesterase depression and its association with pesticide exposure across the agricultural season among Latino farmworkers in North Carolina](#)]

[Johnson & Johnson expands Tylenol recall.](#)

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Johnson & Johnson expanded a recall of over-the-counter medications Friday, the second time it has done so in less than a month because of a moldy smell that has made users sick. Associated Press.

[OSR#1: Industrial chemical or autism treatment?](#)

Sunday, January 17, 2010

An industrial chemical called OSR#1 that was developed to help separate heavy metals from polluted soil and mining drainage is being sold as a dietary supplement by a luminary in the world of alternative autism treatments. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Venison a la plomb.](#)

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Deer hunting season is over in the West. And if you were a good aim, your freezer is chock full of venison. But be warned, new research suggests that eating game shot with lead bullets may expose you and your family to lead, a poisonous heavy metal. High Country News.

[Keeping kids too clean may do more harm than good.](#)

Sunday, January 17, 2010

A growing body of scientific evidence is pointing to links between hypersanitary lifestyles and health problems. Columbus Dispatch, Ohio.

[Report calls for research on nanoparticles in food.](#)

Saturday, January 16, 2010

A global scarcity of scientific research on using nanotechnology in foods means food safety authorities are unable to properly regulate products that may be beneficial or harmful, a British science panel said on Friday. Reuters.

[Environmental Public Health Week begins Monday.](#)

Saturday, January 16, 2010

Environmental health professionals in Hastings and Prince Edward counties work to protect the health of Canadians in the areas of food safety, drinking water, childcare and institutional facilities, air quality, outbreak management, infection control and communicable disease control, personal service facilities as well as a number of other areas. Belleville Intelligencer, Ontario.

[UN report paints grim picture of world's indigenous peoples.](#)

Saturday, January 16, 2010

The world's 370 million indigenous peoples suffer from disproportionately, often exponentially, higher rates of poverty, health problems, crime and human rights abuses, the first ever United Nations study on the issue reported Friday. Afrique en ligne, Africa.

[Vets: Burn pits are killing us.](#)

Saturday, January 16, 2010

The president's promise -- and the military's approach -- won't change a fundamental challenge with the way the government responds to its warriors' wounds. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

[Residence near power lines and mortality from neurodegenerative diseases: Longitudinal study of the Swiss population.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

The relation of living in the proximity of 220-380 kV power lines and the risk of death from neurodegenerative diseases was studied, and an increased hazard ratio for Alzheimer's disease was found to increase with the number of years of residence within 50 m. American Journal of Epidemiology.

[DEP tests show prescription drugs leaching from landfills.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection says it now has enough evidence to prove that unwanted prescription drugs being tossed into local landfills pose a threat to surface and groundwater supplies around the state. Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

[Do TETRA \(airwave\) base station signals have a short-term impact on health and well-being? A randomized double-blind provocation study.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

Our findings suggest that the adverse symptoms experienced by electrosensitive individuals are due to the belief of harm from TETRA base stations rather than due to the low-level EMF exposure itself. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Indoor air quality.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

Air quality is often much worse inside our homes than outside. That's because tens of thousands of chemicals, some synthetic and some found in nature, are used to make products commonly found in buildings. Environmental News Network.

[F.D.A. ordered to stop blocking imports of e-cigarettes.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

A federal judge on Thursday ordered the Food and Drug Administration to stop blocking the importation of electronic cigarettes from China and indicated that the devices should be regulated as tobacco products rather than drug or medical devices. New York Times. [See a related article: [Proof lacking on e-cigarettes' safety, experts warn](#)]

[Estrogen in birth control diminishes sex organs in male rats.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

A number of permanent oddities -- such as deformed penises and smaller reproductive organs that were caused by exposure to the same estrogen found in birth control pills -- contributed to the infertility seen in adult male rats exposed during the time when their reproductive organs were forming. Environmental Health News.

[Alcohol during pregnancy chemically alters fetal DNA.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

Drinking too much during pregnancy can harm offspring permanently. Now experiments in mice suggest this may be because alcohol chemically alters the fetus's DNA, affecting how genes are expressed. New Scientist.

[Adults' breathing troubles may begin in childhood.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

New research hints that how well your lungs function in adulthood and your risk of developing chronic breathing problems is partly determined in childhood. Reuters Health.

[Survivors face threat of outbreak of disease.](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

Doctors and aid workers worry that a wave of infectious disease may soon spread through Haiti, with masses of the newly homeless clustering in public spaces without clean water or sanitation. Wall Street Journal.

[See a related article: [Ask the experts: Are infectious diseases now really Haiti's biggest health threat?](#)]

[Poor neighbourhoods can kill.](#)

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Results from the collaboration indicate that social isolation and a fear of crime cause an overload of stress hormones that can change cell biology, sending tumours into overdrive. New Scientist.

[See a related article: [Marginalised communities 'more prone to environmental hazards'](#)]

[New FDA deputy to lead food-safety mandate.](#)

Thursday, January 14, 2010

In July, Michael Taylor became an adviser to the commissioner of the FDA, and last Wednesday, he was named deputy commissioner for foods, a new position that elevates food in an agency long criticized for placing greater emphasis on drugs and medical devices. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [Sample of Nestlé cookie dough has E. coli bacteria](#)]

[Top product safety regulator warns parents to take cheap jewelry from kids.](#)

Thursday, January 14, 2010

The nation's product safety agency issued an unprecedented warning Wednesday to parents: Don't give your children cheap metal jewelry. And if they already have some, toss it because it could contain hazardous levels of heavy metals such as lead and cadmium. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Majority of toys in Indian market toxic: Study](#)]

[Elevated amount of BPA can increase cardiac risk by 45%, study finds.](#)

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Elevated exposure to bisphenol A has been linked in a new study to a significantly increased risk of cardiovascular disease, the second time researchers have made a connection between the widely used plastic-making compound and heart ailments. Toronto Globe and Mail.

[See related articles: [FDA does about-face on exposure to BPA, FDA says it's unable to regulate BPA](#), [The high cost of plastic convenience](#) and [Obesity now a growing problem for babies](#)]

[Exercise may aid cognitive function.](#)

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Almost any amount of moderate physical activity in mid or late life reduced the odds of mild cognitive impairment by 30% to 40% in an ongoing cohort study, researchers reported. Medpage Today.

[See a related article: [Start running and watch your brain grow, say scientists](#)]

Natural-gas sites don't have air problems: Regulators.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Air tests around natural gas production facilities in Fort Worth found "no pollutants at levels that would be a cause for concern," Texas environmental regulators said Tuesday. NBC News.

[See a related article: [New private tests renew concerns about air quality problems tied to gas drilling](#)]

Zinc blamed for denture-wearers' problems.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Zinc in denture adhesives has been blamed in dozens of cases of nerve damage, including that of a North Carolina man who says 20 years of using the glues caused him to become disabled. McClatchy Newspapers.

Secrets in the soil remain untold.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Caro claims that the soil contamination across the neighborhood has been documented for years. The toxins are suspected to be linked to ash that spewed from the city incinerator decades ago; ash that fell like snow. Miami WFOR TV, Florida.

Report links vehicle exhaust to health problems.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Exhaust from cars and trucks exacerbates asthma in children -- and may cause new cases as well as other respiratory illnesses and heart problems resulting in deaths, an independent institute that focuses on vehicle-related air pollution has concluded. New York Times.

[See related articles: [Environmental health news: Pollution linked to uncontrolled asthma, Revealed: 21 hotspots for air pollution, with traffic worst offender](#), [Research finds link between air pollution, school absences in Texas](#), [Traffic fumes increase the risks of child pneumonia](#) and [City touts cut in school bus exhaust](#)]

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in environmental health as it relates to learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIBulletins.html>
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

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Nancy Snow
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