



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](#)



Biweekly Bulletin July 29, 2009

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

Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum: Registration Is Open.

CHE-WA's Children's Environmental Health Working Group is hosting a Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum October 1-2, 2009, at the Tukwila Community Center. Registration is now open through the [Forum's web page](#), and a draft program and information about accommodations are also posted. Confirmed speakers include these:

- Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science & Environmental Health Network
- Bruce Lanphear, MD, MPH, Simon Frazier University
- Michael Skinner, PhD, Washington State University
- Shanna Swan, PhD, University of Rochester
- plus many regional experts

Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum: Call for Poster Abstracts.

We invite all researchers, technical staff, students, and practitioners from educational institutions, government and tribal agencies, nonprofit groups, and the private sector to submit abstracts to the Forum's poster session. More information and a submission form are available on the [Forum web page](#). Poster abstracts must be submitted by September 4th for consideration.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Meetings

three remaining meetings from July 29 - August 4, 2009
Rochester, New York; East Lansing, Michigan; and Duluth, Minnesota
Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency will host public meetings in each of the Great Lakes states to discuss the federal government's draft action plan for restoring the Great Lakes. The goal of this federal multi-agency, multi-year initiative is to address the most urgent problems affecting the lakes. EPA and other federal agencies have identified five principal areas on which to focus efforts: 1) toxic substances and areas of concern; 2) invasive species; 3) near-shore health and runoff; 4) habitat and wildlife protection and restoration; and 5) accountability, monitoring, evaluation, communication and partnerships.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) Workshop on PCBs in the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers

Thursday July 30, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

at the Port of Portland, 121 NW Everett

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

The workshop has four purposes: exchange information on PCB characterization, exchange information on current and new monitoring methods, exchange information on future and proposed PCB reduction efforts, and follow up on focus on PCBs in the State of the River Report.

Price: free, but preregistration is requested

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

3) Model School Siting Guidelines

Wednesday August 5, 2009

noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Center for Health, Environment & Justice

This is the second of a three-part conference call series on community impacts of the lack of laws preventing the building of schools on or near sources of pollution. Objectives include 1) identifying key components of safe school-siting policies, 2) understanding the type of school-siting policies your own state has passed, and 3) understanding the process that goes into choosing a safe site.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

4) A Public Speaking Workshop with Rob Mostow

Tuesday August 11, 2009

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

Washington, DC

at the National Research Center for Women & Families Conference Room, 1701 K Street NW, Suite 700 (building entrance is on 17th Street near K Street)

Sponsor: National Research Center for Women & Families

Whether you're an intern in Washington, the head of a company or nonprofit, or anything in between -- if it's time to go to the next level, your public speaking may be holding you back. Public speaking classes and coaches usually cost thousands of dollars. This is a unique opportunity to get three hours of great training in a small group at a very affordable price. You can learn by watching others be trained, or you can be one of several volunteers who make a five-minute presentation that is watched, praised, and critiqued by other workshop participants and the workshop leader.

Price: \$115 per participant from a 501c(3) organization or student, \$145 for all others

Contact: Rob Mostow, rob.mostow@gmail.com

5) MASO 2009 Scientific Conference on Obesity

Wednesday and Thursday, August 12 - 13, 2009

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

at the Seri Pacific Kuala Lumpur, Jalan Putra 50470

Sponsor: Malaysian Society for the Study of Obesity

The conference theme is "Obesity and our Environment." This two-day conference will provide up-to-date information incorporating both research and practice elements on the interaction between environmental factors and obesity.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

6) A Media Training Workshop with Suzanne Turner

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Thursday August 13 or noon - 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 (choose one session)

Washington, DC

at the National Research Center for Women & Families Conference Room, 1701 K Street NW, Suite 700 (building entrance is on 17th Street near K Street)

Sponsor: National Research Center for Women & Families

News is shaped by PR experts, most of them highly paid to get the message out. How can researchers, experts who care about the public good, and nonprofit organizations that don't have big bucks make sure that their voices are also heard? Turner Strategies has designed and developed communications campaigns that have helped pass more than 40 pieces of legislation. Their team has worked for nonprofit organizations as well as Fortune 500 companies, devising effective branding and marketing campaigns. Thanks to their guidance, participants in this workshop will learn strategies and useful information that they can use to make their voices heard on important issues. Media training usually costs hundreds of dollars per hour; this is a great opportunity to get three hours of great training at an affordable price. Lunch will be served.

Price: \$95 per participant from 501(c)(3) organizations, \$200 per participant for all others. If you sign up after August 5, add \$20.

Contact: Emily Hartman, 202-223-4000 or info@center4research.org

7) Community Involvement Training Conference

Tuesday through Thursday, August 18 - 20, 2009

Seattle, Washington

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

This eleventh training conference brings together more than 450 people from EPA and its federal, state, tribal and local partners who plan and implement environmental community involvement, partnership, stewardship, outreach and education programs. The theme for the 2009 conference is "Reaching across Boundaries: Sharing Challenges and Opportunities." The theme acknowledges that boundaries exist all around us and can pose challenges to effectively solving environmental problems. However, if stakeholders can move across boundaries, they can identify mutual challenges and opportunities that can lead to sustainable environmental benefits. During the conference we will explore communication skills and processes, organizational/institutional issues and behavioral shifts as ways to reach across boundaries to achieve these environmental benefits.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Community Involvement Conference Coordinator, ciconference@emsus.com

8) Pass a Safe School Siting Policy

Wednesday August 19, 2009

noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Center for Health, Environment & Justice

This is the third of a three-part conference call series on community impacts of the lack of laws preventing the building of schools on or near sources of pollution. Objectives include 1) identifying different strategies in passing a school-siting policy, 2) understanding the steps toward creating a campaign strategy and media plan, and 3) understanding general best practices in passing policy.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

9) 2nd National Safe Routes to School Conference

Wednesday through Friday, August 19 - 21, 2009

Portland, Oregon

at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Sponsor: National Center for Safe Routes to School and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Safe Routes to School is an international movement with the goal of making it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school on a daily basis. An increase in walking and bicycling improves community and personal health, benefits the environment, increases safety, and helps to decrease traffic and congestion around schools. The most successful programs incorporate the five E's: education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement and evaluation. The programmatic themes for this year's conference are 1) transportation infrastructure and safety, 2) Empowering families and youth, 3) education and encouragement program development, 4) health and evaluation, and 5) Growing the SRTS movement.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Bike Transportation Alliance, 503-226-0676 or info@bta4bikes.org

10) Nurses Championing the Health of Minority Communities through a Greener Environment

Saturday August 22, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at Thomas Jefferson University, Bluemle Life Sciences Building, Room 101, 10th & Locust Streets

Sponsor: Theta Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Sorority Inc.; Women's Health & Environmental Network; Thomas Jefferson University Hospital's Office to Advance Population Health; supported by a grant from Health Care Without Harm

Vital information about how exposures to harmful ingredients can impact health is not reaching minority communities. As the public's most trusted professionals, nurses have a critical role to play in sharing current findings with vulnerable populations. This training will be on safer personal care products, sustainable food and making health care safer and healthier for people and the environment. This program is designed for nurses working in minority communities in the Philadelphia region. Nursing contact hours will be awarded.

Price: unknown

Contact: 1-800-JEFF-NOW

11) EUROPEI 2009: Epidemiology for Clinical Medicine and Public Health

Wednesday through Saturday, August 26 - 29, 2009

Warsaw, Poland

at the Old Library, Warsaw University

Sponsor: IEA-EEF European Congress of Epidemiology

The program will cover all modern epidemiological disciplines, including cardioepidemiology, cancer epidemiology, perinatal and reproductive health epidemiology, infectious diseases epidemiology, rheumatoid diseases epidemiology, neuroepidemiology, genetic epidemiology, pharmacoepidemiology, environmental epidemiology, occupational epidemiology, nutritional epidemiology, social epidemiology and others.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: secretariat@euroepi2009.org

12) 4th Annual International Conference on Nanotechnology - Occupational and Environmental Health

Wednesday through Saturday, August 26 - 29, 2009
Helsinki, Finland

Sponsor: unknown

The conference will discuss global health and safety issues surrounding engineered nanoparticles and nanotechnologies, especially in connection with occupational and environmental health. The conference will also provide insights into the latest research results and actions to assure the safety and thereby the future success of nanotechnologies. More details will be available closer to the conference date.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

13) Facilitation Skills for Scientists and Resource Managers

Tuesday through Thursday, September 1 - 3, 2009
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sacramento, California
at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard Street

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course is intended to be a practical approach to improving group meetings. It is oriented specifically to the needs of scientists and resource managers. After core facilitation skills are practiced, the class will be tailored to the students' development needs. Participants will be asked to complete a pre-workshop skills profile. Students are presented with a wide array of tools and opportunities to practice new facilitation skills. The class includes continuing education units.

Price: \$695, or \$595 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

Announcements & Articles

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

Job opening: ASTHO, Virginia.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) seeks a director of environmental health who will be responsible for directing policy development and

analysis, plus program implementation on environmental health issues that may include issues such as climate change, natural disasters, land use, healthy housing, chemical exposure, food safety, safe water, and environmental health infrastructure and capacity.

[Job opening: AmeriCorps, Oregon.](#)

OPSR and OEC seek an event coordinator to provide support for planning, implementation and evaluation of two environmental health education projects. The position is 15 hours per week from September 2009 to June 2010. Applications are due by August 10, 2009.

[Request for comments: Lead Wheel Weights.](#)

The petition requests that EPA establish regulations prohibiting the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of lead wheel balancing weights. Comments must be received on or before July 30, 2009.

[New slide show: Reproductive Roulette.](#)

This presentation is a self-guided slideshow that provides data on reproductive health and dangerous chemicals. Charts and graphs show that reproductive health is declining as human exposure to dangerous chemicals is rising. Center for American Progress.

[EPA 30-day comment period begins July 23 for Great Lakes Gas draft Clean Air Act operating permit.](#)

EPA said today it is seeking public comments on its draft federal operating permit that would allow Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership, Deer River, Minn., to operate a natural gas-fired generator and two natural gas-fired turbines to power the Deer River compressor station for the company's gas pipeline. The comment period began July 23 and ends August 24. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[New report: State Leadership in Formulating and Reforming Chemicals Policy: Actions Taken and Lessons Learned.](#)

This report examines states' emerging leadership in reforming the way chemicals in commerce are managed and analyzes chemicals policies that have been proposed or implemented at the state level. Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

[New report: WHO Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality: Dampness and Mould.](#)

This document provides a comprehensive review of the scientific evidence on health problems associated with building moisture and biological agents. The review concludes that the most important effects are increased prevalences of respiratory symptoms, allergies and asthma as well as perturbation of the immunological system. World Health Organisation.

[New report: Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls.](#)

This peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

[Call for proposals: Environmental Implications of Emerging Technologies.](#)

Fundamental and basic research is sought to establish and understand outcomes as a result of the implementation of new technologies such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, and information technology. The application closing date is September 17th.

[Call for proposals: Fertility Preservation Research: Advancing Beyond Technology.](#)

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) solicit grant applications that are designed to: 1) characterize the risks and mechanisms of gonadal damage secondary to exposure to chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or occupational or environmental hazards, 2) elucidate more reliable biomarkers of reproductive capacity, and 3) examine the social, legal, and ethical ramifications of fertility preservation technologies. Letters of intent must be received by September 21st.

[Call for proposals: Research on the Economics of Diet, Activity, and Energy Balance.](#)

The major focus of this FOA is to solicit projects that enhance the state of the science on the causes of obesity and to inform federal decisionmaking on effective public-health interventions for reducing the rate of obesity in the United States. This FOA is also intended to promote collaborative activities between researchers trained in economics and researchers specializing in public health, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and other chronic diseases so that the desired goals can be more efficiently, quickly, and successfully attained. The closing date for applications is January 7, 2011. US Department of Health and Human Services.

[Lead poisoning prevention: a challenge to local churches.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Churches that run day care centers, children's ministries and/or nurseries should be sure to test areas in the church that house children related activities for lead poisoning. Examiner.com.

[See a related article: [Deadly dust](#)]

[Depressed and confused? Let the sun shine.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Rainy days have long been tied to a poor mood, while sunshine often lifts one's spirits. A new study now suggests that a lack of sunlight is associated with reduced cognitive function among depressed people as well. Los Angeles Times.

[Oakland port program to clean up trucks, air.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Air quality regulators are taking steps to reduce so-called diesel particulates in a neighborhood where increasing cases of asthma, chronic lung disease and cancer have sounded the alarm about the long-term health effects of heavy industry. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Labels on fortified foods are wildly inaccurate.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

A decade after Canada adopted a groundbreaking policy of fortifying flour-based products to prevent birth defects, the levels of folic acid purported to be in foods remain wildly inaccurate, new research reveals. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[Is sunscreen safe?](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Sunscreen protects us from the harmful rays of the sun. But sunscreen also contains chemicals which can seep into the body, or seep into water and affect aquatic life, as well as drinking water. Frederick News-Post, Maryland.

[Phytoestrogen in soy impedes egg, embryo growth, finds mouse study.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Women who are having difficulty conceiving may want to cut back on their soy consumption after a mouse study reveals that dietary exposure to genistein, a compound found in soy foods, can reduce the odds of a successful pregnancy in multiple ways. Environmental Health News.

[Cheap shots -- typhoid vaccine shows broad coverage.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

An inexpensive vaccine against typhoid fever offers protection across age groups and is particularly effective in preschool-age children, a large trial in India finds. Typhoid strikes 21 million people each year -- and causes up to 600,000 deaths worldwide. Science News.

[Childhood cancer survivors face new threats as adults.](#)

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Some pediatric-cancer survivors are finding that the same treatments that saved their lives could come back to haunt them in new ways in their 20s and 30s. Wall Street Journal.

[Anticancer effects of phytosterols.](#)

Monday, July 27, 2009

Mounting evidence supports a role for phytosterols in protecting against cancer development. European Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

[NIH seeks genetics and environment breast cancer studies.](#)

Monday, July 27, 2009

The National Institutes of Health plans to issue a request for applications this fall to fund multidisciplinary research into possible environmental influences on breast cancer risk, including studies of how genetics and environmental influences affect disease risk. GenomeWeb.

[Healthy fat link to bowel disease.](#)

Sunday, July 26, 2009

Experts believe a high intake of linoleic acid, found in foods like "healthy" margarines, may be implicated in a third of ulcerative colitis cases. BBC News.

[Dry cleaners leave a toxic legacy.](#)

Sunday, July 26, 2009

Over the years, with little if any notice to the public, the often sloppy use of perchloroethylene has poisoned hundreds of sites in Illinois. As scientists linked perc exposure to cancer, liver damage, neurological problems and other ailments, regulators found problems in virtually every town with a dry cleaner. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[See a related article: [Illinois EPA proposal could lead to tougher cleanup rules at dry cleaner sites](#)]

[Chemical drift a growing concern for rural residents.](#)

Sunday, July 26, 2009

State legislatures throughout the country are grappling with chemical drift from farm fields and the conflict between the rights and pressures of farming and the rights and health of rural residents. Peoria Journal Star, Illinois.

[Wellness 101: What is environmental wellness?](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

Environmental wellness is one of the seven dimensions of wellness. By promoting environmental wellness, one can decrease one's risk for chronic illness and other health issues. Examiner.com.

[Poorest more likely to suffer catastrophic health problems.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

People in Milwaukee's poorest areas are much more likely than those in high-income neighborhoods to get lead poisoning, have sexually transmitted diseases or fare poorly on women's health issues, according to a new study. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

[Researchers find possible links between Agent Orange and risks of heart disease, Parkinson's.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

Medical researchers say there may be a link between exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War and an increased chance of developing serious heart problems and Parkinson's disease. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [Urgent action needed on pesticides](#)]

[Beware these household chemicals.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

Two specific groups of chemicals are the source of considerable concern these days -- volatile organic compounds and phthalates. Here's what you need to know about how they affect your air. Los Angeles Times, California.

[See an article about phthalate exposure: [Phthalate exposure through medication](#) and another about regulating VOCs in paints and finishes: [State rolls out new paint law to reduce harmful fumes](#)]

[How to have healthier air in your home.](#)

Saturday, July 25, 2009

For the most part, the air you breathe while you're at home isn't nearly as clean as the air you breathe while you're outside. Los Angeles Times, California. 25 July 2009.

[See a similar article: [Improve air quality in your nursery and protect your baby's health](#)]

[Report slams FEMA on health hazard in emergency housing.](#)

Friday, July 24, 2009

In the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA was slow to address early signs of formaldehyde problems in emergency housing and overstated actions it was taking to address the problem, according to a report released Thursday by a federal inspector general. CNN.

[Consumer products could be major C8 source, study says.](#)

Friday, July 24, 2009

Everyday consumer products such as stain repellants and paper coatings may be a "significant source" of the toxic chemical C8 [also called PFOA], according to a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study. Charleston Gazette, West Virginia.

[Ozone exposure tough on kids with asthma.](#)

Friday, July 24, 2009

Even in rural areas, exposure to ozone appears to have a harmful impact in kids with asthma, researchers report in the journal Allergy. Reuters Health.

[See related news articles: [Asthma increasing among Pittsburgh-area kids](#) and [Parent stress, air pollution up kids' asthma risk](#) and a related journal article: [Traffic related air pollution, oxidative stress genes and asthma \(ECHRS\)](#)]

[Swine flu may cause seizures in children.](#)

Friday, July 24, 2009

Public health experts expect to see more cases of children who develop swine-flu-related neurological complications, because flu-related brain complications are more common in children than adults and swine flu seems to infect children more often than adults. New York Times.

[See a related article: [Fears that swine flu can attack unborn](#)]

[U.S. withheld data on risks of distracted driving.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

On Tuesday, the full body of research is being made public for the first time by two consumer advocacy groups, which filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit for the documents. New York Times.

[Infant inhalation of ultrafine air pollution linked to adult lung disease.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

Early exposure to environmentally persistent free radicals (present in airborne ultrafine particulate matter) affects long-term lung function. Science Daily.

[EPA vows to examine hazardous waste impact on poor communities.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency vowed Tuesday to home in on the impact of hazardous waste recycling plants on minorities and low-income communities. Los Angeles Times, California.

[FDA: Electronic cigarettes contain toxic chemicals.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

Federal health officials said Wednesday they have found cancer-causing ingredients in electronic cigarettes, despite manufacturers' claims the products are safer than tobacco cigarettes. Associated Press.

[Missouri tracks environmental health risks.](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2009

Missouri and federal agencies have teamed up to keep track of environmental hazards and chronic diseases and hopefully find links between the two. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Missouri.

[Red meat and poultry: two major sources of PBDE exposure in the US.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

People who eat meat and poultry have significantly higher levels of common flame retardants compared to vegetarians. The findings indicate that food may be a more important source of the contaminants, known as PBDEs, than previously thought.

[Oregon cuts program to track pesticide use.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

The second annual report on Oregon pesticide use is likely to be the last. Just as the report from the Department of Agriculture went to press, the program was cut as a casualty of state budget problems. Seattle Times.

[Companies with operations in Washington illegally export electronic waste to Hong Kong.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

In April the companies allegedly prepared for shipment and sent to Hong Kong a container holding over 500 used color computer monitors of assorted makes and models. The Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department notified EPA of the hazardous waste and returned it to the Port of Tacoma in May. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[U.N. report pinpoints cancer risk from radon in homes.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

New studies have found direct evidence of a lung cancer risk from the presence of colorless, odorless radon gas in many homes, a United Nations committee said in a report released Tuesday. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Environmental health 101: How do I test my home for radon?](#)]

[The complexities of greening your lawn.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Lawn and garden products are marketed as thoroughly tested, registered with the Environmental Protection Agency, and safe to use -- with an important caveat: If used properly. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Styrene industry sues to halt California Prop. 65 cancer listing.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

The \$28 billion styrene industry has filed a lawsuit in Sacramento Superior Court to block California environmental officials from listing the product as a cause of cancer and birth defects. Sacramento Bee, California.

[Kicking the habit in pregnancy better for babies.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Moms-to-be who smoke but quit early in pregnancy can sharply reduce their risk of having a premature or too-small baby, new research in the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology* shows. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Fewer in state smoke while pregnant](#)]

[Are your children's toys safe? Supporters of new rules show which playthings could hurt kids.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

The Children's Safe Product Act would require toy manufacturers who have products on shelves in Michigan to notify the state government of any chemicals present in the toys that are known to be hazardous to children, including lead, arsenic, bromine, cadmium and mercury. Kalamazoo Gazette, Michigan.

[See a related article: [Product safety chief: Keep kids' products safe or else](#)]

[Attack on noneconomic damages cap fails in top court.](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

In a defeat for lead-poisoning victims, the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that the state's cap on noneconomic damages applies to claims brought under the Consumer Protection Act. Baltimore Daily Record, Maryland.

[Children more vulnerable to pesticides until age 7 due to lower enzyme level.](#)

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

A new study finds that young children have significantly lower levels of a key enzyme that protects against the toxic effects of certain pesticides. The youngsters' enzyme levels do not catch up to an adult's until after age seven -- far longer than previously thought. Environmental Health News.

[Find 'could cut allergy deaths.'](#)

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Scientists have made a breakthrough which could reduce the risk of children suffering serious allergic reactions to peanuts and other food. It is hoped the discovery could lead to a huge reduction in the number of fatal anaphylactic shock cases. BBC.

[Drugs expose many premature babies to chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Premature babies are often exposed to additives in their medications that could put them at risk of brain and lung damage, according to a new study. Reuters Health.

[See a similar article: [IV tube chemical linked to premie liver woes](#)]

[Isotopes finger fertilizer's perchlorate legacy.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

Perchlorate-contaminated groundwater could be a widespread legacy of the U.S.'s agricultural past, according to researchers who have pioneered perchlorate forensics. Environmental Science & Technology.

[Healthy neighborhoods: Walkability and air pollution.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

Increased concentration of activities in urban settings yields both health costs and benefits. This research identifies neighborhoods that do especially well (and especially poorly) for walkability and air pollution exposure. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Exposure to aircraft noise and saliva cortisol in six European countries.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

Results suggest that exposure to aircraft noise increases morning saliva cortisol levels in women, which could be of relevance for noise related cardiovascular effects.

Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Asbestos threat 'underestimated', say scientists.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

A report by scientists from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) this summer reclassified certain cancers and concluded that more than previously thought are related to asbestos fibres. London Guardian, England.

[Food safety in the age of recalls: What the government is doing to protect us, and what you can do.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

While consumers are becoming aware of how to cook and store food safely, federal legislation may ensure that government agencies play a more pivotal role in protecting the nation's food. New York Daily News, New York.

[Study links kids' lower IQ scores to prenatal pollution exposure.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

Researchers for the first time have linked air pollution exposure before birth with lower IQ scores in childhood, bolstering evidence that smog may harm the developing brain. Associated Press.

[Do contaminants play a role in diabetes? Evidence is growing.](#)

Monday, July 20, 2009

A Great Lakes study linking a pesticide in fish to diabetes adds to the growing chorus of studies suggesting that environmental contaminants may play a role in the widespread disease. "The science has been growing very, very rapidly, and to my mind, it's one of the most exciting developments in the study of diabetes," said David O. Carpenter, director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at the University of Albany. Environmental Health News.

Officials fish for solution for Trinity River, poisoned with PCBs.

Sunday, July 19, 2009

Storms over factories, warehouses and truck terminals wash old industrial poisons into ditches and sad ponds dug beside the levee. When the rain is heavy, workers turn on big pumps and flush the water, chemicals and all, into the river. In time, the biggest fish in the river held so much poison that it became dangerous for people to eat them. Dallas Morning News, Texas.

[See a similar article about fish advisories in Alabama: [State issues new mercury warning in Escambia County, Ala., and upgrades fish consumption advisories on Fish and Escatawpa rivers](#), one from Kentucky: [State warns about eating fish from some Ky. waters](#) and two about advisories in Michigan: [Tips to safely eat Saginaw Bay Watershed fish](#) and [Michigan's do-not-eat fish list online doesn't reach enough anglers](#)]

State, Alcoa still in landfill talks.

Saturday, July 18, 2009

An old unlined landfill, containing industrial waste consolidated throughout Alcoa's former 218-acre property, is leaching pollution into groundwater. Clark Columbian, Washington.

Warning sounded on heart scan law.

Saturday, July 18, 2009

A new study offers the most definitive estimate yet of the cancer risk from the radiation exposure that comes with increasingly popular CT scans, which provide pictures of the heart's arteries and quantify the risk of heart attack in people without symptoms. Houston Chronicle, Texas.

State identifies toxic chemicals.

Saturday, July 18, 2009

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday released a list of about 1,700 "chemicals of high concern" -- substances used in manufacturing common consumer goods that pose a significant risk to human health. Bangor Daily News, Maine.

Feds studying cement hazards at Midlothian, Texas.

Saturday, July 18, 2009

A sweeping new federal study may finally answer the question that environmentalists, industry leaders, politicians and scientists have argued about for at least 20 years: Just how toxic is the air around the nation's largest concentration of cement plants in Midlothian? Associated Press.

Pesticide too risky for chemical giant -- but not for Australia.

Friday, July 17, 2009

Bayer is expected to end global sales of endosulfan, replacing the toxic pesticide with safer alternatives. But the Government's pesticides authority maintains the chemical is safe for use on a wide range of crops. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[See a related article about Florida residents' fight against pesticide use: [Tampa residents defeat pesticide use at golf course](#), one about a new ban in New Brunswick: [N.B. releases banned pesticide list](#), and another about proposed regulation in California: [Critics take aim at new strawberry pesticide](#)]

Autism: It's the environment, not just doctors diagnosing more disease.

Thursday, July 16, 2009

California's sevenfold increase in autism cannot be explained by changes in doctors' diagnoses and most likely is due to environmental exposures, University of California scientists reported Thursday. San Francisco Chronicle.

[Is organic food more nutritious?](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

The truth is, the belief that organic produce is nutritionally superior to conventionally farmed is only mildly supported by scientific evidence. Vancouver Courier, Canada.

[A burning health issue between neighbors.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Because of increased risk of cancer, asthma and other health problems, the state last year imposed rules governing how outdoor wood boilers can be used. Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Massachusetts.

[Should racial profiling play a role in cancer prognosis?](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

African-Americans are more likely to die from cancer than patients of other races, and studies have long implicated socioeconomic and environmental factors. Two research teams, however, have recently suggested that the genetics of race itself is likely to be a contributor. Scientific American.

[Pesticides may raise Alzheimer's risk.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Exposure to pesticides may have long-term effects on the nervous system, increasing the risk of Alzheimer's disease in late life, a new study suggests. WebMD.

[See a related article: [Vitamin D, curcumin may help clear amyloid plaques found in Alzheimer's Disease](#)]

[Orange County school district sues engineers for approving school site on former bombing range.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

The Orange County school district is suing two engineering companies that gave the green light to build a middle school on a World War II-era bombing range where tons of bomb debris and hundreds of unexploded bombs and rockets have been unearthed. Orlando Sentinel, Florida.

[Israeli study sees link between oral cancer, cell phones.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

A recent study documents a sharp rise in the incidence of salivary gland cancer in Israel that researchers believe may be linked to the use of mobile phones. Haaretz, Israel.

[California panel decides against requiring warning labels for products containing bisphenol A.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

A state panel will not require warning labels on metal cans, plastic bottles and other products that contain bisphenol A, despite more than 200 studies that have linked the chemical to cancer and reproductive problems. Los Angeles Times.

[Scavenging hazardous 'e-waste' for a few redeemables.](#)

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Agbogbloshie's growing mountain of hazardous electronic waste, is also a stark example of the West's continued abuse of Africa, critics say: The rich world not only extracts resources from the continent, it also uses it as a trash bin. Washington Post.

["Glycemic load" of diet tied to breast cancer risk.](#)

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

The amount of carbohydrates a woman eats, as well as the overall "glycemic load" of her diet, impact her chances of developing breast cancer, Swedish researchers report. Reuters Health.

[Smoking may speed progress of multiple sclerosis.](#)

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Multiple sclerosis patients who smoke have a speedier progression of the disease, a new study in the Archives of Neurology suggests. Reuters Health.

Dust contributes to exposures of three common contaminants.

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Chemicals heavily used in everyday products can end up in dust and increase people's exposure to the contaminants, reports a study by Belgium researchers who calculated exposure to bisphenol A, an antibacterial agent and a flame retardant through dust. Environmental Health News.

11 surprising facts and myths about microwave ovens.

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Microwaves are energy efficient and convenient. But what does the radiation do to our food, and can it affect our health? The prevailing consensus is that microwave ovens are safe when used as directed. However, there may be some legitimate questions about their safety. The Daily Green.

Environmental groups want state to upgrade beach water quality.

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Depending upon summer storm overflow, ocean dumping, and other forms of nonpoint pollution, you may be floating in a veritable vegetable soup of trash, lawn chemicals and waste, including raw sewage, when you swim at your local New Jersey beach. Asbury Park Press, New Jersey.

How safe is the water near the TVA ash spill site?

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Fishermen are casting lines and children are swimming downstream of TVA's ash spill around areas that a new report says have shown high levels of arsenic and other potentially toxic substances. Nashville Tennessean, Tennessee.

State high court denies 'defective design' claim in lead paint lawsuit.

Wednesday, July 01, 2009

The makers of a substance once commonly used in house paint won a partial victory Tuesday when the Wisconsin Supreme Court found that makers of lead pigment could not be sued on a claim of using a defective design for the product. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

*Most of the news articles above come from Environmental Health News,
<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/>*

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- 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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