



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin March 24, 2010

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning and developmental disabilities and environmental health. They are archived and searchable on LDDI's website: www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/learning/r/bulletins (Note the new URL).

LDDI Highlights

LDDI Biomonitoring Project

Mind, Disrupted, can be found at www.minddisrupted.org. This project has been a major accomplishment of the LDDI working group and its partnering organizations, and we encourage you to visit our website and collaborate with us on continued outreach with this important tool!

Teleconference April 13th

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is hosting its monthly Research and Science Teleconference Series on Tuesday April 13th from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on "Adaptive Behavior and the School Environment" with Brent Ibata. For more information, please see event #6 below or email Laura Abulafia, Director of Education and Outreach for the Environmental Health Initiative (EHI): laura@aaidd.org.

Health Policy Webinar April 21st

AAIDD's EHI is also hosting a Health Policy webinar on Wednesday April 21st from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time. Speaking is Charlotte Brody from Blue Green Alliance on the Safer Chemicals Healthy Families (SCHF) Health Report. For more information or to register, contact Joyce Martin, Director of Health Policy for the EHI: jmartin@aaidd.org.

Autism Society Meeting July 8th

The Autism Society (ASA) is planning a meeting in Dallas, Texas, on Thursday July 8th that will include a panel presentation on Environmental Health, Developmental Disability, Biomonitoring, and Public Health Policy. Please stay tuned for more information on this important meeting. Also, feel free to contact Donna Ferullo from ASA for more information: dferullo@autism-society.org.

Policy and Outreach Updates

Maureen Swanson from the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA) Healthy Children's Project has been leading the efforts on health care reform legislation in Pennsylvania and has also taken a leadership role in federal chemical policy reform. For more information on LDA's or LDDI's work on health policy, especially in Pennsylvania, please contact Maureen: mwanson@ldaamerica.org.

Laura Abulafia, Director of Education and Outreach for the AAIDD EHI, has joined the California-based Council for Education and Research on Toxics (CERT) in order to further promote California State work on toxics. For more information on this organization, contact Laura: laura@aaidd.org.

Journal Articles

The April issue of *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* (IDD), a peer-reviewed journal from AAIDD, will include an article in the Perspectives section written by leaders of the EHI and colleagues from Healthy Schools groups. Authors are Kristie Trousdale, Joyce Martin, Laura Abulafia, Claire Barnett and Carol Westinghouse. The paper is an adaptation from the AAIDD EHI teleconference hosted in 2009 on Green Schools by Carol Westinghouse.

The June issue of the *American Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* (AJIDD), a peer-reviewed journal from AAIDD, will include a paper on the LDDI scientific and policy consensus statements, entitled "Scientific and policy statements on environmental agents associated with neurodevelopmental disorders," written by Steven Gilbert, Elise Miller, Joyce Martin, and Laura Abulafia. For more information, please contact Steve Gilbert: sgilbert@innd.org.

Once they are published, both articles will be available online on the [AAIDD website](#).

Contact LDDI

Many more collaborative projects and exciting new initiatives are in the works for members of the LDDI working group, and to get more information on any of these or to participate, please feel free to contact Laura Abulafia, National Coordinator of LDDI, at laura@healthandenvironment.org, or Elise Miller, Director of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment. Thank you!

Announcements

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

[Join the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures.](#)

The agenda will outline how the United States can meet public health goals and achieve the National Conversation's vision that the United States will use and manage chemicals in ways that are safe and healthy for all people.

[The Researcher's Perspective podcast series.](#)

Each month, Environmental Health Perspectives publishes a new podcast. Listen to environmental health science's foremost researchers as they discuss the motivation and vision behind their research as well as the implications for human health.

[EPA launches web forum on how to best protect America's waters.](#)

For a two- week period, EPA is holding a web discussion forum on how the nation can better manage some of the most significant water pollution problems facing our nation.

[EPA makes chemical information more accessible to public for the first time, TSCA chemical inventory free of charge online.](#)

EPA is providing web access, free of charge, to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Substance Inventory. This inventory contains a consolidated list of thousands of industrial chemicals maintained by the agency.

[National Public Health Week, April 5 - 11, 2010](#)

The week's theme is "A Healthier America: One Community at a Time."

[Protect yourself and family when working in areas exposed to contaminated flood water - Website available with flooding information.](#)

EPA cautions the public and all responders about the potential hazards associated with flood waters. Every effort should be made to limit contact with flood water due to potentially elevated levels of contamination associated with raw sewage and other hazardous substances.

[Keep pesticides and household chemicals out of children's reach.](#)

"Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons" is the message the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sending in conjunction with the Poison Prevention Week Council to keep poisonous substances out of the hands of children.

[U.S. makes progress toward cleaner air: National trends show improvements in the nation's air quality.](#)

Since 1990, nationwide air quality has improved significantly for the six common air pollutants: ground-level ozone, particle pollution, lead, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide.

[Call for proposals: Pollution Prevention Grant Program.](#)

The Pollution Prevention (P2) grant program supports state and tribal technical assistance programs which help businesses identify better environmental strategies and solutions for reducing or eliminating waste at the source.

[Call for proposals: Environmental Health Science Innovation Fund.](#)

Passport Foundation provides modest support for US-based scientific research projects that demonstrate strong potential for significantly advancing the environmental health science needed to promulgate effective chemicals regulation, public health policies and clinical care policies/practices. Proposals are due May 3rd.

[Job opening: Seattle, Washington.](#)

Group Health has an opening for a research associate for the Center for Community Health and Evaluation (CCH) team to manage the scientific program evaluations in the design, implementation, operations and dissemination of findings from community health evaluations through data analysis and report writing.

[Job openings: Washington, DC; California; Washington state; Colorado; Florida and New York.](#)

Earthjustice, a nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the earth's natural resources and defending the right of all people to a healthy environment, has several openings for attorneys, office managers, interns and law clerks.

[Job opening: Portland, Maine.](#)

The Environmental Health Strategy Center has an opening for a development and marketing associate to manage the small donor fundraising program and large donor prospect identification and research. She/he will create and execute marketing campaigns, manage the website and contact database, and participate in other direct fundraising and development activities. Please submit a resume and cover letter by March 31, 2010, to jrothmann@preventharm.org.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>. The calendar now lists deadlines for funding proposals and conference abstracts.

1) EPA Grants Award Process Webinar

Thursday April 1, 2010
2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar for the EPA grants community. If you are interested in applying for EPA grants or are currently managing an EPA grant, please consider attending this one hour webinar. The webinar will cover grants topics, including how to find and apply for grant opportunities, an update on the status of Grants.gov, and preparing a proper budget detail.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Elizabeth January, 617-918-1315 or january.elizabeth@epa.gov

2) First National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures Web

Dialogue

Monday through Wednesday, April 5 - 7, 2010

Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in collaboration with the American Public Health Association (APHA), Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

You're invited to discuss your views, concerns and ideas regarding public health and chemical exposures as part of the two-year National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures. The National Conversation aims to strengthen the nation's approach to protecting the public from harmful chemical exposures. Everyone who has an interest in this subject is welcome to join the conversation. Your ideas will help the National Conversation Leadership Council create an action agenda for achieving the National Conversation vision that the United States will use and manage chemicals in ways that are safe and healthy for all people. This is the first of three National Conversation web dialogues.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

3) Slow Death By Rubber Duck Webinar

Tuesday April 6, 2010

5:00 p.m. Pacific time / 8:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

Studies show that harmful toxic chemicals are common in household items, including rubber ducks and bubble bath, and that many of these chemicals are also found inside of our bodies. Over a four-day period, *Slow Death By Rubber Duck* authors Rick Smith and Bruce Lourie used everyday household products suspected of causing harm to our ecosystem and to human health. By revealing the pollution load in their bodies before and after the experiment, Rick and Bruce tell a unique inside story of common toxins and body burden. On the April 6th Webinar, author and Executive Director of Environmental Defence Canada Rick Smith will read from *Slow Death By Rubber Duck*, and we'll discuss toxic chemicals found in products as common as hand soap and what you can do to protect your family and the planet. Preregistration is required. The recorded webinar will be available on the Safe Cosmetics website after the event.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) Public Relations Training for Environmental Professionals - Perfecting Environmental Communication with the Public, Press, and Industry

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 6 - 7, 2010

Seattle, Washington

at EOS Alliance (NWETC) Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

A well-designed public relations program can supercharge your organization's image, reputation and success. During this intensive two-day course, you will obtain a fundamental background on the key issues, concepts and practice of effective communications and media relations, with the focus on environmental projects. The course is designed to provide participants with an insight on fundamentals and practicalities behind public-relations practice in the context of protocol functions and communications planning.

Price: \$495/*\$395 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and AFS, NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members; a \$50 early-bird savings applies to

registrations received by March 5, 2010

[Visit the website](#)

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

5) Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities

Monday and Tuesday, April 12 - 13, 2010

Honolulu, Hawaii

at the Hawai'i Convention Center

Sponsor: see the [Community Partners page](#)

A topic area devoted to environmental toxins includes this description: "What is the relationship between environmental toxins and disabilities? In this topic area, we explore this question by looking at the factors and conditions that give rise to disabilities as a result of exposure to heavy metals, including depleted uranium, and chemicals, which are more pervasive today than in any time in history. Current research suggests that the effect of these toxins is related to rising occurrences of disabilities including cognitive learning impairments and other disabilities."

Price: see the [Registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 808-956-7539 or cccrocke@hawaii.edu

6) Adaptive Behavior and the School Environment

Tuesday April 13, 2010

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

In *The School and Society* John Dewey writes: "From the standpoint of the child, the great waste in the school comes from his inability to utilize the experiences he gets outside the school in any complete and free way within the school itself; while on the other hand, he is unable to apply in daily life what he is learning at school. That is the isolation of the school - its isolation from life." This isolation is even more profound for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In *Schools of To-morrow* John Dewey expands this: "[t]he child is best prepared for life as an adult by experiencing in childhood what has meaning to him as a child." The present method of identifying an appropriate placement for child with a disability within a school frequently ignores the influence that the environment has on the child and instead focuses almost exclusively on the child's disabilities independent of the environmental confounders. Brent Ibata, PhD, JD, will present on this webinar; his talk will explore those environmental influences known to impact the health, behavior and academic achievement of the child. To achieve full societal inclusion and participation for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities reasonable accommodations to the school environment must be considered as part of any placement decision. Only with safe and healthy school environments will a disabled child be able to achieve full adaptive behavior potential as an adult.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

7) Lead and Beyond: Progress in Eliminating Lead Poisoning and New Opportunities for Collaboration in New Jersey

Friday April 16, 2010

7:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Edison, New Jersey

at the Sheraton Edison Hotel, Raritan Center, 125 Raritan Center Parkway

Sponsor: New Jersey Interagency Task Force on the Prevention of Lead Poisoning and

the Governor's Council on the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

The goals of the conference are to update participants about the progress being made in the fight against lead poisoning in New Jersey and to introduce participants to other environmental health hazards found in homes, schools and workplaces. These hazards include radon, heavy metals, moisture, mold, poor ventilation, pest control, fungal allergens and others. Advance registration is required. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$50

[Visit the website](#)

8) Evaluating the Impact of Cumulative Stressors on Health

Monday April 19, 2010

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will explore how cumulative impact science indicates that multiple factors - including social, psychosocial, economic, physical, chemical and biological determinants - may contribute to disproportionate human health or environmental impacts. The risk of many diseases may be moderated by social and environmental factors, and some populations may systematically experience higher levels of these factors. This call on cumulative impact will present an overview of cumulative risk assessment and the need to incorporate key nonchemical stressors. Featured speakers include Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, of the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley; and Jon Levy, ScD, of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

News and Journal Articles

[A qualitative analysis of environmental policy and children's health in Mexico.](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

If regulation and legislation are not updated and implemented to protect children, increases in preventable exposures to toxic chemicals in the environment may ensue. Environmental Health.

[See a related article from Pakistan: [Supreme Court seeks report on state of kids disabled by toxic waste](#)]

[U.S. bolsters chemical restrictions for water.](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

The Environmental Protection Agency announced on Monday that it would overhaul drinking water regulations so that officials could police dozens of contaminants simultaneously and tighten rules on the chemicals used by industries. New York Times.

[See related articles: [It's the water](#); [EPA Administrator Jackson outlines new vision for clean, safe drinking water](#); [Tougher standards to affect missile site cleanups](#), [Bad water more deadly than war](#), [Military finally admits fault in water contamination case](#), [Rising pollution puts water source at risk](#) and [Regulators OK disposal of wastewater into Great Salt Lake](#)]

[On the waterfront: International Maritime Organization is voting on clean-fuel laws.](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Four years after the Golden State began pushing for clean-fuel shipping regulations, the globe's governing maritime body is set to adopt rules affecting the entire U.S. and Canadian coastline. Long Beach Press-Telegram, California.

[See a related article: [Port Authority bans older trucks from Newark, Elizabeth seaports](#)]

What do small leaks mean for public health?

Monday, March 22, 2010

In British Columbia's northeast sector, where the oil and gas industry has been booming for the better part of a decade, there are increasing concerns about public and environmental health. Toronto Globe and Mail.

'Greening' your own family.

Monday, March 22, 2010

According to her research, for example, ubiquitous in products like creams, shampoos, detergents, cleaners and soaps are parabens and phthalates, synthetic chemicals that she writes "have been linked to a long list of health issues ranging from reproductive toxicity to cancer." Portsmouth Herald, New Hampshire.

[See related journal articles: [Influence of a five-day vegetarian diet on urinary levels of antibiotics and phthalate metabolites: A pilot study with "Temple Stay" participants](#) and [Investigation of relationships between urinary biomarkers of phytoestrogens, phthalates, and phenols and pubertal stages in girls](#) and a news article: [Phthalates exposure may double breast cancer risk ... or not](#)]

Bill would define tire burning as renewable energy.

Sunday, March 21, 2010

With just five words quietly slipped into legislation, Illinois lawmakers are moving to include tire burning in the state's definition of renewable energy, a change that would benefit a south suburban incinerator with a long history of pollution problems. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[See a related article: [Airborne endotoxin concentrations in homes burning biomass fuel](#)]

Exposure to environmental contaminants can be minimized.

Sunday, March 21, 2010

The air we breathe, the food we eat, the house we live in, the grass we walk on -- all contain toxic substances that could be harmful to our health. Harrisburg Patriot-News, Pennsylvania.

Britain. A breath of foul air.

Sunday, March 21, 2010

More than 50,000 people are dying prematurely in the UK every year, and thousands more suffer serious illness because of man-made air pollution, according to a parliamentary report published tomorrow. London Independent, United Kingdom.

[See related articles from Australia: [Asthma linked to particles in air pollution](#) and [Air pollution sending children to hospital](#) and Hong Kong: [Hong Kong government under fire as pollution soars to record](#) and China: [As China's pollution toll grows, protesters and media push back](#)]

Common pesticide tied to development delays in kids.

Saturday, March 20, 2010

The pesticide chlorpyrifos is associated with delays in the physical and mental development of young children, a new study shows. The product is banned in U.S. households but is widely used as an agricultural pesticide on fruits and vegetables. Business Week.

[See a related article: [Poisoned](#)]

FDA cracks down on tobacco marketing to youths.

Friday, March 19, 2010

The agency uses its new authority to impose a nationwide ban on selling cigarettes and other products to those under 18 and to put new restrictions on sales methods. Los Angeles Times, California.

Bauer recalls 100,000 children's hockey sticks.

Friday, March 19, 2010

One of Canada's largest sports equipment manufacturers is recalling 100,000 children's

hockey sticks around the world after Health Canada warned the company of the sticks' high lead content. Canwest News Service.

[GAO report scolds EPA.](#)

Thursday, March 18, 2010

During the past decade, the Environmental Protection Agency's commitment to keeping children safe from toxic chemicals has lapsed, according to a report released Wednesday by the Government Accountability Office. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Senate considers methods to protect children from toxins](#)]

[Most power plants still spewing toxic mercury, report says.](#)

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Many of America's coal-fired power plants lack widely available pollution controls for mercury, and mercury emissions recently increased at more than half of the country's 50 largest mercury-emitting power plants, according to a report Wednesday. McClatchy Newspapers.

[See a related article: [Coal's toxic sludge](#)]

[Survey: 13 million pounds of Ohio River fish eaten annually.](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

A survey indicates widespread fishing and fish consumption -- despite various health warnings from mercury and other pollutants. About half of those surveyed said they were not aware of the warnings. Louisville Courier-Journal, Kentucky.

[See a related article from Canada: [Residents stop fishing after increase in contaminants](#)]

[Florida company builds a safer C.F.L. bulb, but does it matter?](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

The motivation to create the new ArmorLite compact fluorescent light bulb came to Tom Irvine, the chief executive of Florida-based Clear-Lite Holdings, after a lamp was knocked over in his 5-year-old son's bedroom, breaking the C.F.L. bulb. New York Times.

[Arsenic in apple juice: How much is too much?](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Independent testing commissioned by the St. Petersburg Times has found levels of arsenic that have caught the attention of scientists and parents. St. Petersburg Times, Florida.

[See a related article: [How the West poisoned Bangladesh](#)]

[Medicare gets tough on unnecessary CT scans.](#)

Monday, March 15, 2010

The Medicare watchdog has expressed "alarm" over the widespread and unnecessary ordering of high-radiation CT scans that can trigger cancer, after a near-trebling in the number of doctors and other health workers referred to the agency for investigation. Sydney Australian, Australia.

[See a related article: [V.A. is fined over errors in radiation at hospital](#)]

[Hazardous designer clothes.](#)

Monday, March 15, 2010

China has impounded shipments of imported designer clothing from famous labels such as Hermes and Versace after finding they contained potentially hazardous chemicals [including formaldehyde], authorities said on Monday. Agence France-Presse.

[Study suggests lead-poisoning risk could lurk in spices.](#)

Monday, March 15, 2010

According to a new study published Monday in Pediatrics, lead may lurk in less expected sources in the home -- like in the kitchen pantry. Time Magazine.

[See related articles: [Indian spices, powders linked to lead poisoning](#), [China closes factory amid lead poisonings](#) and [China defends detention of lead poisoning victims who sought medical help](#)]

[FEMA's sale of Katrina trailers sparks criticism.](#)

Sunday, March 14, 2010

In a giant auction, the federal government has agreed to sell for pennies on the dollar most of the 120,000 formaldehyde-tainted trailers it bought nearly five years ago for Hurricane Katrina victims. Washington Post.

[Eureka! Less poison really is more -- deadly.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

For 500 years, science has believed that we can tolerate a little bit of almost kind of any poison. Those days may be gone. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[State taking steps to phase out dry cleaning chemical.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Illinois is moving to phase out the use of perchloroethylene, or perc, a common dry-cleaning chemical linked to cancer, liver damage and neurological problems. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Study shows chemistry has not made for better living.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

DuPont's slogan in the 1950s was "Better Things for Better Living Through Chemistry." But today, many living near DuPont's plant outside Parkersburg, West Virginia have found that chemistry has not made for better living. Murray WKMS, Kentucky.

[Autism and toxins.](#)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

People are beginning to connect the dots and realizing that there exists at least the potentiality or possibility that certain untested chemicals in children's environments may be contributing to neuro-behavioral problems in children -- and the possibility exists that autism is among those. Living On Earth.

[See related articles: [Three rulings find no link to vaccines and autism](#), ['Clean room' Pittsburgh study could shed light on autism](#) and [Testosterone in girls' brains offers clue to autism's cause](#)]

[Painting indoors can be less toxic experience.](#)

Friday, March 12, 2010

The EPA ranks painting as one of the easiest ways to contaminate your indoor air. But today, homeowners have lots of environmentally friendly options when painting indoors, including paints with zero VOCs that are virtually odorless. Detroit News, Michigan.

[See a related article: [Children to receive lead paint compensation](#)]

[Sewage compost stirs ire.](#)

Friday, March 12, 2010

The problem, say groups like the Organic Consumers Association and the Center for Food Safety, is the EPA only requires testing for nine metals, when there are potentially thousands of chemicals in the compost. Associated Press.

[Vermont rejects call from EPA to accept dioxin-laced soil.](#)

Friday, March 12, 2010

Vermont regulators told the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday they will not allow 33,000 tons of dioxin-laced soil from a Massachusetts Superfund site to be dumped at a Moretown landfill. Burlington Free Press, Vermont.

[Washington State restricts BPA, including in baby bottles.](#)

Friday, March 12, 2010

Washington's Legislature has approved a statewide ban on the chemical in baby bottles, water bottles and other containers. The state Senate voted 38-9 Monday in support of the ban, which already won House approval. Everett Herald, Washington.

[See a related article: [Daily intake of bisphenol A and potential sources of exposure: 2005-2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey](#)]

[Fears over toxic sunscreen.](#)

Friday, March 12, 2010

Nanoparticles used in some sunscreens to make them transparent might also be toxic,

according to Australian research that adds to uncertainty about the safety of some sunscreens. Melbourne Age, Australia.

Feds recall more children jewelry in cadmium probe.

Friday, March 12, 2010

Federal safety regulators recalled a line of Christmas-themed bracelets Thursday, expanding their effort to purge children's jewelry boxes and store shelves of items containing high levels of the toxic metal cadmium. Associated Press.

[See a related article: [State lawmakers pushing for ban on cadmium in products for kids](#)]

Smoking years key factor in lower Parkinson's risk.

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Several studies have shown that smokers have a lower risk of developing Parkinson's disease. A new study shows that it's how many years of smoking a person has under their belt -- rather than how much they smoke every day -- that matters. Reuters.

Tracing tainted food grueling.

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Food director Jackie Anderson didn't get word last month until it was too late. Students in the Arlington, Texas, Independent School District already had eaten tacos filled with beef that should have been destroyed as part of 5.8 million pounds of beef recalled since January by Huntington Meat Packing. USA Today.

[See related articles: [Questions raised about gap in food inspection standards](#), [Missouri has first case of Chronic Wasting Disease](#) and [Canada suffers 17th case of mad cow and is categorized as "controlled risk"](#)]

PCBs alter key brain chemical that stops nerve-to-nerve signals.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Certain types of PCBs can affect the way a brain chemical responsible for halting signals sends its chemical messages from nerve to nerve, according to research conducted on frog egg cells Environmental Health News.

Mountaintop mining is deadly, professor says.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

A leading biology researcher warned a state Senate panel Tuesday that mountaintop mining of coal in Tennessee has already released dangerous amounts of the toxic selenium into streams. Chattanooga Times Free Press, Tennessee.

Exposure to weed killer associated with lower birth weight.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Babies born to women with higher levels of the herbicide metolachlor in their babies' umbilical cord blood weighed less than babies born to women with lower measured levels of the pesticide. Environmental Health News.

[See related articles about another pesticide: [Is herbicide atrazine bad for you?](#) and [Federal herbicide review worries sugar farmers](#)]

The most toxic home products.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

You expect to find toxic chemicals in cleaning products and pesticides. But you wouldn't think toxins could be in your bed -- or worse yet, your infant's crib. Forbes.

[See related articles: [Toxic make-up](#) and [Saving face](#)]

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 general children's environmental health:
http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins
- 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.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the LDDI Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Working Group at the bottom of the application.

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