Bureau of Environmental Health
Health Assessment Section

"To protect and improve the health of all Ohioans"

Clyde and Eastern Sandusky County Childhood Cancer Investigation

Evaluation of Clyde Soil Sampling Public Health Consultation Results

As a part of the Clyde and Eastern Sandusky County Childhood Cancer Investigation, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Health Assessment Section (HAS) was asked to evaluate the April, 2011 soil sampling conducted by the Ohio EPA in the City of Clyde, in eastern Sandusky County, Ohio. The soil samples were collected to address community concerns regarding potential environmental exposures and the elevated incidence of childhood cancer cases documented by the ODH and the Sandusky County Health Department (SCHD). In response to the request, in July of 2011 HAS produced a public Health Consultation (HC) document.

What is a Public Health Consultation (HC)?

The purpose of a public Health Consultation (HC) is to review and evaluate the available data and information on the hazardous substances found in the environment in order to determine if there is a completed exposure pathway that poses a public health threat. A health consultation is a way for the HAS to respond to a need for health information on toxic substances and to make recommendations for actions to protect the public's health. HAS staff evaluate available information about toxic materials at a site, determine whether people might be exposed, report what harm exposure might cause, and make recommendations to reduce and/or eliminate the exposure.

What are the HC conclusions?

Conclusion 1: The Clyde soil sampling results indicate typical background levels of chemicals found in urban and rural soils sampled elsewhere in north-central Ohio.

- None of the soil samples collected provided evidence of industrial contamination.
- No metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyl's (PCBs), or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in the soil samples at levels of public health concern.
- Levels of some individual polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) slightly exceeded the health-based screening levels at six (6) of the sites sampled, including the background soil sample location. The levels of PAHs detected, however, were typical of urban soils elsewhere in Ohio. And note that when the soil sample with the highest concentrations of PAHs detected was evaluated with regard to its total toxicity, it did not exceed health-based cancer risk levels.

Conclusion 2:
Based on the soil samples collected by Ohio EPA in April, 2011, soils in the Clyde area are not contaminated with toxic chemicals at levels of public health concern and exposure to the sampled soils currently does not pose a cancer threat to residents, including area children.

What are the HC recommendations?

Based on the results of Ohio EPA soil sampling, the levels of toxic chemicals detected are below levels of health concern and no additional soil testing is believed to be necessary.

For more information:

For information about the ODH public Health Consultation:
Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Health
Health Assessment Section
246 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 466-1390

To view a copy of the ODH Health Consultation in its entirety, visit the ODH web site at:
http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/hlth_as/phc2.aspx

To view a copy of the timeline of Clyde and Eastern Sandusky County Childhood Cancer Investigation, visit the ODH web site at:
http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/eh/hlth_as/phc2.aspx and select the "*Clyde 2011 Timeline*" document.

For more information about the Ohio EPA environmental investigation efforts in Clyde and Eastern Sandusky County, visit the Ohio EPA web site at: **http://epa.ohio.gov/pic/clyde.aspx**

The Ohio Department of Health is in cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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