



Industry influence in the Dioxin Reassessment

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Dioxin's Sorry History

- ⌘ Found to cause chloracne in industrial accidents in 1940s and 1950s
- ⌘ Associated with miscarriages led to discontinuation of Agent Orange
- ⌘ Linked with cancer in Swedish studies in 1970s
- ⌘ Massive exposure in Seveso





History of the EPA's Dioxin Reassessment

- ⌘ Cold Spring Harbor Conference, 1990
- ⌘ EPA Administrator Reilly responds to API, CMA in 1991
 - | Proposes 18 month review process
- ⌘ Draft Reassessment in 1994
 - | 1995 SAB review recommends new work on dose-response
- ⌘ 2000 Draft Reassessment





SAB Subcommittee Review

- ¢ November, 2000 public meeting
 - | Disclosure statement required by SAB members and consultants
 - | D. Paustenbach said his company (ExPonent) had on-going industry contracts; would refrain from discussing Reassessment with his colleagues





ExPonent, Inc. Critique

- ⌘ Asserts dioxin's mode of action is receptor-mediated, non-genotoxic
 - | Data inconsistencies preclude “any defensible risk assessment”
 - | D. Trichopoulos calls epidemiologic evidence inadequate and criticizes IARC classification
- ⌘ Concludes TCDD not a human carcinogen





Paustenbach Input to SAB

- ☪ Then Vice-President of ExPonent, formerly with Syntex Corp., Stauffer Chemical, etc.
- ☪ Consistently asserted dioxin is only a tumor promoter, with possible J-shaped (hormetic) dose response
- ☪ Inserted references from ExPonent work into draft SAB document





SAB DRRS draft statement to Exec. Com. April-June, 2001

- ☪ Multiple drafts with votes on various points
- ☪ Includes claim (by some members) of low dose anti-carcinogenicity
- ☪ EPA staff response calls latter claim “irresponsible”





Clapp letter to SAB, June 2001

- ☪ Discusses “abuse of process” by Paustenbach
- ☪ Points out the lack of consensus within the DRRS on many issues
- ☪ Urges more attention to conflict of interest in SAB subcommittees and ways to improve final report process





Chlorine Chemistry Council Response

- ⌘ Calls Nov. 2000 public meeting “a shockingly low point” in SAB peer review history
 - | Calls CHEJ behavior “outrageous”
 - | Objects to Birnbaum and Farland participation
- ⌘ Calls for new SAB subcommittee to review dioxin reassessment





Present Status of Dioxin Reassessment

- ☪ Draft posted on EPA web site
- ☪ Interagency meetings organized by White House Office of Science and Technology
- ☪ EPA budget and priorities shifted toward bioterrorism
- ☪ Two-year NAS review being organized





Midland, Michigan studies

- ⌘ Community group pressuring for dioxin exposure studies and clean-up of Tittabawassee River area
- ⌘ State of Michigan and U. of Michigan School of Public Health minimizing community concerns

