

**Lone Tree Council**  
**P.O. 1251, Bay City, Michigan 48706**  
***(Fighting for environmental justice since 1978)***

February 1, 2011

Lisa Jackson  
EPA Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

This past week, Dr. David Garabrant and his team from the University of Michigan, under contract to Dow Chemical released additional conclusions from the [University of Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study](#). (UMDES) They have mailed a summary of this to area residents. State and national agencies did not review or see these materials prior to distribution. Moreover, the data analyses on which the new conclusions are based have not been published or made available on the UMDES website.

This release comes in the middle of the public comment period for EPA's negotiated Interim Response Actions to limit human exposure to dioxin and furan contamination in areas along the Tittabawassee River floodplain.

**(AOC CERCLA DOCKET No. V-W-10-C-942)**

We believe the mailing by the University of Michigan was inappropriate and premature, inasmuch as it is clearly intended to influence public opinion before the new study has been published in a peer-reviewed journal and made available for public scrutiny. It also sends conflicting signals to the population, and interferes with and frustrates public health efforts to educate the public about legitimate health threats. We urge EPA to once again address the limitations of the UMDES study, its interpretation, and its limited utility in setting appropriate public health guidance. We are calling upon EPA to:

- Inform residents that the mailing from UMDES was premature, inasmuch as its conclusions are based on data analyses that have not been published or made publicly available.
- Expedite a review by ORD of the new findings in the UMDES
- Develop an EPA fact sheet regarding this review and identify any limitations of the UMDES and its interpretation.
- Mail this fact sheet to residents
- Consider another visit to the region to address the public.

As always we appreciate EPA's attention and commitment to the people of Michigan's largest watershed. We look forward to hearing from you soon on this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Terry Miller  
Chair, Lone Tree Council  
Bay City, MI  
989-450-8097 cell  
989-686-6386

Michelle Hurd Riddick  
Lone Tree Council  
989-799-3313  
989-327-0854 cell

Tracey Easthope MPH  
Director, Environmental Health Project  
Ecology Center  
117 N Division  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Kathy Henry  
Tittabawassee River Watch  
2935 Shattuckville Road  
Saginaw, MI 48603

Lisa Wozniak  
Executive Director  
Michigan LCV  
213 W Liberty, Ste 300  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Rita Jack  
Sierra, Club Mackinac Chapter  
109 E Grand River  
Lansing, MI 48906

Chris Kolb, President  
Michigan Environmental Council  
119 Pere Marquette Suite 2A  
Lansing, MI 48912

Ted Schettler, MD, MPH  
Science and Environmental Health Network

CC: Administrator EPA Region V Susan Hedman  
Mary Logan EPA Region V  
Mathy Stanislaus EPA  
Robert Sussman EPA  
Jim Sygo MDNRE  
David Garabrant UMDES