

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease
Registry Atlanta
GA 30333

JUN 1
2006

Michelle Hurd
Riddick Lone
Tree Council
2421 Kipling
Saginaw,
Michigan 48602

Dear Ms. Riddick:

On April 10th you wrote to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) expressing concerns about potential exposures to dioxin and furans to residents along the Saginaw River in Saginaw County and Bay County, Michigan. ATSDR acknowledged your letter to be a petition for a public health assessment on April 19th. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that we have accepted your petition and to identify the next steps to occur in the process.

ATSDR and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) work in partnership on environmental health concerns for communities in your state. ATSDR and MDCH reviewed the environmental data you presented in the petition package. We plan to conduct a public health evaluation related to possible exposures to the public from the dioxin/furan contamination in the Saginaw River. The MDCH will take the lead on this investigation which will likely result in a public health consultation report.

MDCH and ATSDR staff will review and summarize the available relevant data, consider public health implications, state conclusions, and make public health recommendations, as necessary. We will also consider the need for additional exposure-related data and other public health activities. A fact sheet about ATSDR public health consultations has been enclosed.

As a cooperative agreement partner, MDCH will use the same scientific methods and public health practices as ATSDR in conducting the public health consultation. ATSDR will review and certify the report before it is completed. When completed, ATSDR will send the public health consultation report to you and other, identified community members or other stakeholders.

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Thank you for referring your concerns to ATSDR and for your patience in awaiting a response. Please contact Mr. Kory Groetsch, MDCH, at (517) 335-9935 or Ms. Michelle Colledge, ATSDR Regional Representative, at (312) 886-1462 regarding planned public health activities to address your concerns. You may also contact Ms. Leslie Campbell, ATSDR Petition Coordinator, at (404) 498-0473, if you have questions about the ATSDR petition process.

Sincerely,

William Cibulas Jr., Ph.D.
CAPT, U.S. Public Health Service
Director
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation

Enclosure

cc:
Kory Groetsch, MDCH