

Lone Tree Council

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(Fighting for environmental justice since 1978)

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For Immediate Release

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Toxic Dioxin – Public Health Advocates, Environmentalists Condemn Failure to Release Dioxin Health Report

Michigan Left in the Dark about Dioxin's Toxicity as EPA's Voice Remains Silent

Advocates Urge EPA to Immediately Release Dioxin Health Report, Decry 27 Years of Delays Due to Dow Chemical's Influence

(Mid Michigan) For twenty-seven years dioxin impacted communities, like Saginaw, Bay City and Midland have waited for EPA to articulate the science findings on the toxicity of dioxin. Today, Lone Tree Council and the Ecology Center denounce the US Environmental Protection Agency's failure to once again release their report on the non-cancer impacts of dioxin. In August of 2011 EPA committed to a January 31st deadline.

The failure to finalize any portion of the report represents a political, moral and ethical failure. Dioxin has become the textbook example of how industry can successfully delay science-based progress on toxic chemicals in this country.

"Since the mid 1980's when the Reagan administration permitted Dow Chemical to rewrite the EPA report on dioxin, administration after administration in the White House has cowed to this company and their lobbyists", said Michelle Hurd Riddick of the Lone Tree Council. "Public health is being sacrificed, our water resources disregarded and science is being ignored once again in an effort to placate the moneyed interest. It is indefensible that this administration capitulated to industry, reaffirming the belief of most Americans that corporations have greater influence and more control and rights than people", says Hurd Riddick.

In recent months, consistent with history, the chemical industry has been working behind closed doors to conceal hide and distort the truth about the dangers of dioxin. At the same time, Vietnam Veterans, breast cancer advocates, public health organizations, and environmental justice leaders have stood shoulder to shoulder and urged EPA to do what's right for the health of American children and families. [Over the past three weeks a broad coalition of organizations have written to EPA.](#)

Cancer, diabetes, infertility, learning disabilities and other chronic diseases linked to dioxin exposure are extremely costly to American taxpayers in terms of health, quality of life and regional economic development. EPA missed yet another deadline to release their report on dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals on the planet.

Tracey Easthope MPH, "Finalizing this study matters to people in Michigan. We are home to one of the largest dioxin contamination sites in the country. People have been living with this chemical in their bodies, in their food supply, and in their homes for decades."

"This report is a great example of why people are so angry and frustrated by the influence of powerful interests that trample the public interest. How is it possible for industry to delay the release of a report for 27 years? How can a system become this dysfunctional"? said Ms Easthope of the Ann Arbor based Ecology Center.

According to EPA, dioxin releases increased by 18% from 2009-2010 nationally. Dioxin air releases increased by 10%. Dioxin's effects on the immune system of the developing organism appear to be among the most sensitive endpoints studied.

Terry Miller, Lone Tree Council chairman is calling on the administration to support EPA's scientific findings and release the non-cancer portion of the report as promised. "The failure of EPA to publicly affirm their science, to find their voice on the toxicity of dioxin, is an abysmal failure of public health policy ", said Miller." How many more years will Dow Chemical and industry lobbyists be permitted to frame the issue and science on dioxin"?

Joining the Dow Chemical lobby, in anticipation of the release by EPA, the corporate agriculture industry circled their wagons, creating the **Food Industry Dioxin Working Group (FIDWG)** to lobby against the EPA release. The FIWG member organizations:

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Meat Institute
Corn Refiners Association
International Dairy Foods Association
National Chicken Council
National Grain & Feed Association
National Meat Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Turkey Federation
Pet Food Institute
United Egg Producers

Timeline of current EPA activities, courtesy of CHEJ, can be found at www.cleanwatershedcampaign.org.

