

Davis Timber Superfund Site

Questions and Answers

1. *Is the water in the Country Club Estates Lake safe for children who swim or canoe there?*

The timber processing operations at the Davis site that involved the chemicals dioxin and pentachlorophenol (PCP) occurred many years ago. Dioxin does not dissolve in water easily, and it would not be expected to be found in the water in any significant amount. PCP does dissolve in water, but it rapidly degrades in both water and sediment. The length of time involved and the composition of these chemicals indicates that it is unlikely that either chemical would be in the water at concentrations harmful to health. No PCP was found in several sediment samples from the lake. Analysis of the sediment samples indicated small amounts of dioxin, but at levels too low to be harmful to either adults or children who might come in contact with it.

2. *Could children playing in and around the creeks be harmed by contacting site-related contaminants?*

In the past, children who played in and around East Mineral Creek and West Mineral Creek might have been exposed to small amount of contaminants. If children got their hands dirty or wet and put their hands to their mouths, they may have ingested small amounts of contaminants. Low levels of dioxin and PCPs have been found in runoff along the creeks, but it is unlikely children could have gotten sick from these brief, limited exposures.

3. *Will people get sick from eating fish from the Country Club Lake?*

Currently, there is no problem with eating fish from the lake. The levels of dioxin in the lake fish are not considered to be harmful. The state of Mississippi has lifted the fish consumption advisory that had been in effect since 1987. The state acted on the basis of the results for fish samples collected and analyzed after 1997. Those samples are considered to be representative of fish typically caught from the lake. Because very few specimens larger than 6 pounds were obtained in those sampling efforts, no exposure data are available related to consumption of larger fish. While we do not believe that occasional consumption of larger fish will result in adverse health effects, some people may still be concerned because larger fish may have the potential for containing higher levels of contaminants. ATSDR recommends that these people contact the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to arrange for additional sampling and testing of fish.

4. *If I live close to the lake, is it safe for me to eat vegetables grown in my yard?*

Yes, it is safe for you to eat vegetables from your garden. Dioxin and PCP are not likely to be taken up by plants to any significant amount, if at all. Also, there is no evidence that residential yards are contaminated with dioxin and PCP.