

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE (MCLB), ALBANY, GEORGIA FINAL PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT – September 2001

BACKGROUND

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a public health assessment for MCLB on March 30, 1993. At that time, the limited available data did not indicate that people were being, or had been, exposed to levels of contamination expected to cause harm to human health. ATSDR released an updated Public Health Assessment in April 2000. It reexamines potential public health hazards associated with groundwater and soil contamination and reflects ATSDR's collection and evaluation of additional data since 1993.

ATSDR CONCLUSIONS:

- Drinking water from the three on-base drinking water supply wells does not pose a past, or current, public health hazard.
- The levels of volatile organic contaminants detected in the Ramsey Road neighborhood from 1993 through 1999 did not pose a health hazard.
- No past, current, or future public health hazards are associated with exposure to contaminated soils at MCLB.

ATSDR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Additional private well water results are needed in the Fleming Road neighborhood, southwest of MCLB. If chemical concentrations in private well samples exceed drinking water standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an alternate water source should be sought for those Fleming Road residences.
- Continued groundwater monitoring should be conducted in the Ramsey Road area, and the two remaining residences which still have private wells should be connected to city water.
- Abandoned private wells should be permanently sealed to prevent potential future exposures to groundwater contamination.

ATSDR HEALTH INITIATIVES/ACTIVITIES

Our public health activities at this site have included our participation on the Albany Community Alliance, provision of health education for community members and health care providers, and public meetings/outreach sessions for community members. ATSDR expanded its health education activities to include presentations to the Albany Ministerial Alliance and the Albany Medical Society.

We also established a reference section on environmental health topics for the community and health care providers at the Dougherty County Public Library and the Phoebe-Putnam Memorial Hospital Library, in Albany, Georgia. ATSDR trained local librarians and health care providers in environmental health/medicine who will, in turn, provide training to other health care providers in the Albany area.

To address community concerns regarding cancer and other health outcomes, ATSDR evaluated cancer mortality and selected vital statistics data for Dougherty and Worth Counties, Georgia. The results of this evaluation, including a separate summary, are provided in Appendix E of the September 2001 Public Health Assessment.

WHERE CAN I FIND A COPY OF THE FINAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT?

The health assessment has been placed in the following repositories:

Dougherty Co. Public Library
2nd floor Reference Section
300 Pine Avenue
Albany, GA 31701

Albany State University
James Pendergrast Library
504 College Dr.
Albany, GA 31705

Dougherty Co. Health Department
1710 South Slappey Blvd.
Albany, GA 31706

Phoebe-Putnam Memorial Hospital
Library
417 3rd Avenue
Albany, GA 31701