

Information on ATSDR and Environmental Public Health for residents of Elmore, Ohio and Vicinity

What is ATSDR?

ATSDR is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a federal public health agency based in Atlanta, Georgia. ATSDR is the agency charged with *evaluating human health concerns at hazardous waste sites or at other places where uncontrolled hazardous waste has been released into the environment*. ATSDR is an advisory agency and does not make or enforce regulations. ATSDR works in cooperation with local and state agencies and with other federal agencies to protect human health.

Why is ATSDR involved with this site?

ATSDR was requested by U.S. Senator Mike DeWine to investigate the Brush Wellman plant and to determine whether emissions from the plant and beryllium particles carried off-site on workers' clothing in the past pose a health risk to members of the community.

Will ATSDR gather community concerns?

On Wednesday, June 27, 2001, ATSDR held an open house - public availability session for residents of Elmore, Ohio and surrounding areas. The purpose of the session was to listen to community health concerns related to beryllium dust, and to discuss ATSDR's future work in the area. ATSDR staff gathered these community concerns and will provide the results of the evaluation in a written document called a public health consultation.

What is a Public Health Consultation?

A Public Health Consultation provides advice on a specific public health issue related to real or

potential human exposure to hazardous substances. A Public Health Consultation is a way for ATSDR to respond quickly to a need for health information on toxic substances and to make recommendations for actions to protect the public's health. ATSDR staff members will evaluate available information about hazardous substances, ways people may have been exposed in the past or may be exposed currently, and—if people were exposed—whether the exposure might be associated with health problems.

A health consultation may consider the following:

- ◆ the levels (or “concentrations”) of hazardous substances;
- ◆ how people might contact those substances, such as breathing air or drinking water containing hazardous substances;
- ◆ information on whether contact with the substances at the levels detected has been associated with health problems.

What happens next?

ATSDR is evaluating the information received from local, state, and other federal agencies, along with the information gathered during the site visit. Based on this information, ATSDR will work with the other agencies involved to determine the best means to gather the information needed to evaluate current exposure.

Once the needed information is collected, ATSDR will evaluate whether the exposure is at levels of health concern. If conclusions warrant, a health consultation may include recommendations for actions to protect public health.

Will the community be given the opportunity to comment on the Health Consultation?

Yes, community members and other interested parties will be given the opportunity to comment on the document. Once the draft document is released, the document will be open for public comment for 45 days.

When will the Health Consultation be released to the public?

The Health Consultation will be made available to the public by October 1, 2001.

How can I obtain a copy of the Health Consultation?

ATSDR will send a draft copy of the document to anyone that is interested in reviewing it. In addition, a copy of the document will also be placed for your review in the information repository located at the Harris-Elmore Library, 238 Toledo Street, Elmore, OH 43416. Individuals who are interested in receiving the draft document can contact Loretta Bush at 1-888-422-8737 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST., Monday through Friday or email at lsbush@cdc.gov, please reference the Brush Wellman site.

Will ATSDR visit the area again?

Yes, ATSDR staff members plan to meet with residents to discuss the Draft Public Health Consultation. The Public Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, October 10, 2001** from **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM** at the Elmore Community Center, 410 Clinton Street, Elmore, OH.

☎ For more information, contact ATSDR environmental health scientist Peter Kowalski in Atlanta at 1-888-422-8737 (by e-mail: pkowalski@cdc.gov) or ATSDR Community Involvement Specialist Loretta Bush (lsbush@cdc.gov).

ATSDR

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry

Healthy People in a Healthy Environment

