

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Health Service (PHS) Activities and Research at Department of Energy (DOE) Sites: Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announce the following meeting.

Name: Citizens Advisory Committee on PHS Activities and Research at DOE Sites: Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee (ORRHES).

Time and Date: 12 p.m.–8 p.m., December 3, 2002.

Place: YWCA of Oak Ridge, 1660 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 37830. Telephone: (865) 482-9922.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 100 people.

Background: Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in October 1990 and renewed in September 2000 between ATSDR and DOE. The MOU delineates the responsibilities and procedures for ATSDR's public health activities at DOE sites required under sections 104, 105, 107, and 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund"). These activities include health consultations and public health assessments at DOE sites listed on, or proposed for, the Superfund National Priorities List and at sites that are the subject of petitions from the public; and other health-related activities such as epidemiologic studies, health surveillance, exposure and disease registries, health education, substance-specific applied research, emergency response, and preparation of toxicological profiles. In addition, under an MOU signed in December 1990 with DOE and replaced by an MOU signed in 2000, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been given the responsibility and resources for conducting analytic epidemiologic investigations of residents of DOE facilities, workers at DOE facilities, and other persons potentially exposed to radiation or to potential hazards from non-nuclear energy production and use. HHS has delegated program responsibility to CDC.

Purpose: This subcommittee is charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Director, CDC, and the Administrator, ATSDR, pertaining to CDC's and ATSDR's public health activities and research at this DOE site. Activities shall focus on providing the public with a vehicle to express concerns and provide advice and recommendations to CDC and ATSDR. The purpose of this meeting is to receive updates from ATSDR

and CDC, and to address other issues and topics, as necessary.

Matters to be Discussed: The agenda includes a discussion of the public health assessment, updates from the Public Health Assessment, Health Needs Assessment, Agenda, and Outreach and Communications, and the Guidelines and Procedures Workgroups. Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

La Freta Dalton, Designated Federal Official, or Marilyn Palmer, Committee Management Specialist, Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, M/S E-54, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone 1-888-42-ATSDR(28737), fax 404/498-1744.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: October 31, 2002.

John Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Health Service (PHS) Activities and Research at Department of Energy (DOE) Sites: Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announce the following meeting.

Name: Citizens Advisory Committee on PHS Activities and Research at DOE Sites: Hanford Health Effects Subcommittee (HHES).

Times and Dates: 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., January 30, 2003. 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m., January 30, 2003. 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m., January 31, 2003.

Place: West Coast Tri-Cities, 1101 North Columbia Center Blvd., Kennewick, WA 99336. Telephone: (509) 783-0611.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 100 people.

Background: Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in October 1990 and renewed in September 2000 between ATSDR and DOE. The MOU delineates the responsibilities and procedures for ATSDR's public health activities at DOE sites required under sections 104, 105, 107, and 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund"). These activities include health consultations and public health assessments at DOE sites listed on, or proposed for, the Superfund National Priorities List and at sites that are the subject of petitions from the public; and other health-related activities such as epidemiologic studies, health surveillance, exposure and disease registries, health education, substance-specific applied research, emergency response, and preparation of toxicological profiles. In addition, under an MOU signed in December 1990 with DOE and replaced by an MOU signed in 2000, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been given the responsibility and resources for conducting analytic epidemiologic investigations of residents of communities in the vicinity of DOE facilities, workers at DOE facilities, and other persons potentially exposed to radiation or to potential hazards from non-nuclear energy production and use. HHS has delegated program responsibility to CDC.

Purpose: This subcommittee is charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Director, CDC, and the Administrator, ATSDR, regarding community, American Indian Tribes, and labor concerns pertaining to CDC's and ATSDR's public health activities and research at this DOE site. The purpose of this meeting is to receive an update from the Inter-tribal Council on Hanford Health Projects; to review and approve the Minutes of the previous meeting; to receive updates from ATSDR/NCEH and NIOSH; to receive reports from the Outreach, Public Health Assessment, Public Health Activities, and the Studies Workgroups; and to address other issues and topics, as necessary.

Matters to be Discussed: Agenda items include a presentation and discussion on introduction to public health assessment, continued discussion of the Hanford Community Health Project, agency updates, and an evening session with an endocrinologist.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Contact Persons for More Information: French Bell, Executive Secretary HHES, or Marilyn Palmer, Committee

Management Specialist, Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, NE M/S E-32, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone 1-888-42-ATSDR (28737), fax 404/498-1744.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: October 31, 2002.

John Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60 Day-03-11]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 498-1210.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information

technology. Send comments to Seleda Perryman, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Proposed Project: Case-Control Study of Environmental Exposures and Genetic Susceptibility in Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis in Three Geographic Areas—New—The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is mandated pursuant to the 1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and its 1986 Amendments, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), to serve the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances. This legislation was, in part, in response to the lack of scientific information about potential adverse health effects resulting from exposure of a general population to hazardous substances.

Citizens across the nation living near hazardous waste sites have expressed concern about a perceived increase of multiple sclerosis (MS) in their communities and many believe this occurrence is directly linked to exposure to hazardous substances. Evidence indicates that multiple sclerosis is a complex disease with a multifactorial etiology determined by both environmental factors and genetic susceptibility. Although the specific biological mechanism of MS is unknown, one possibility is that an environmental exposure triggers an inappropriate type of immune response where the T-lymphocytes become sensitized to myelin which slows or blocks signals transmitted to the central nervous system. Unfortunately, basic epidemiologic data does not exist regarding the number of people affected with this disease, but estimates range from 250,000 to 400,000 people in the United States. MS differentially affects women, people in the 30 to 60 year-old age group, and Caucasians.

Recently, ATSDR collaborated with researchers from the Texas Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Jackson County Missouri Health Department to conduct a prevalence study in order to respond to community concerns of multiple

sclerosis and possible associations with hazardous waste sites. This research was conducted to establish methodologies for estimating MS prevalence and to determine the prevalence rates for this disease in three geographic areas near source(s) of hazardous waste: Lorain County, Ohio; the cities of Independence and Sugar Creek, Missouri; and a 19-county area surrounding Lubbock, Texas. Medical records of individuals from neurologists' offices were used to ascertain cases and a consulting neurologist for each geographic area reviewed the clinical and laboratory data available in the patient's medical record to verify diagnosis. No patients were contacted in this study.

ATSDR is currently proposing a case-control study that will examine specific environmental exposures that affect the immune system as well as specific genes that are associated with an immune response. Cases will include individuals who have been diagnosed with MS and were identified through the prevalence study conducted in Ohio, Missouri and Texas. Controls will be selected from patients who attended the same neurologists' office from which the cases arose and who meet eligibility requirements. Study participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire to ascertain exposure to heavy metals and other toxic chemicals either through occupational exposures, hobbies or lifestyle activities, or due to residential proximity to industry or hazardous waste sites. Participants will also be asked to provide a blood sample to test for exposure to possible infectious agents and to evaluate specific candidate genes as potential risk factors of disease.

To reduce the amount of time required by the respondents, Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) will be conducted. Following completion of all respondent interviews, the data will be tabulated and analyzed, comparing high versus low exposed participants. The information collected in this proposed study will provide information on the potential role of environmental exposures and genetic factors in the development of multiple sclerosis.

There is no cost to respondents other than their time to participate in the study.