



The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It was created by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (also known as the Superfund legislation). ATSDR's mission is 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.

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Issue 3

Environmental Health

Chillum Perc Site Community Newsletter

Riggs Park, Washington, DC

Purpose

This is the third in a series of newsletters about the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) public health activities concerning the Chillum Perc site. This newsletter is a follow-up to ATSDR's August 2008 progress report to residents. ATSDR has issued newsletters and participated in community outreach events to provide updated information about the Chillum Perc site to residents of Riggs Park and surrounding communities. We thank the residents for the comments and suggestions they provided during ATSDR's site activities.

Release of the final health consultations

ATSDR completed its third evaluation of environmental sampling data from the Chillum Perc site in 2008. These evaluations were done to find out if residents were exposed to chemicals called volatile organic compounds at levels harmful to humans. In addition, ATSDR reviewed the comments received during the public comment period about its Indoor and Outdoor Air Data Evaluation health consultation report issued in April 2008. The final health consultation was released December 30, 2008. This report includes an appendix containing the public comments and ATSDR's responses. In the final health consultation document, ATSDR also includes the results of new analyses, chemical specific information, special consideration for children and sensitive populations, and expanded recommendations. In response to community requests, ATSDR also reviewed available cancer information and asthma data for the Riggs Park neighborhood. This document is available on ATSDR's website at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ChillumPercSite2009/ChillumPercSiteHC12-29-2008.pdf>

What are ATSDR's findings?

ATSDR finished reviewing the latest environmental data from this site collected by DDOE and its consultants. ATSDR release a letter-length health consultation regarding this latest review on November 3, 2009.

This document is available on ATSDR's website at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/ChillumPerc2010/ChillumPercSite11-3-2009.pdf>.

The letter health consultation concluded that the detected VOCs and their concentrations in the latest data set are consistent with the results found in prior data sets. All of the environmental sampling data sets reviewed to data support ATSDR's overall conclusion that all indoor and outdoor air VOC concentrations detected at this site area levels below those expected to harm people's health. ATSDR will continue to review health and environmental data about the Chillum Perc site as this information becomes available.

After reviewing all available environmental data collected from the Chillum Perc site and nearby homes and businesses at different times of year between 2003–2008 by organizations such as Chevron, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the District of Columbia Department of Health (D.C. DOH), and the District of Columbia Department of the Environment (DDOE), ATSDR concludes that:

- ATSDR does not expect the contaminant levels found in the Riggs Park neighborhood to make a person sick with a cancer or non cancer related illness.
- The ground water plume still exists. EPA and DDOE are managing the assessment and clean-up of the groundwater plume. For more information about these clean-up activities, please visit: http://www.epaossc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=abc and <http://ddoe.dc.gov/ddoe/cwp/view,a,1210,q,498921.asp>
- Cancer rates at the Ward 4 level (which includes the Riggs Park neighborhood) appear to be similar to the rates found throughout Washington, D.C.
- Based on the limited information available to ATSDR, asthma rates appear higher at the Ward 4 level (which includes the Riggs Park neighborhood) compared to Washington, D.C., for certain years.

ATSDR understands that residents have discussed the possibility of D.C. DOH conducting a health study in the community. D.C. DOH may choose to conduct this type of study as a community service. ATSDR guidelines do not recommend this kind of study at this site because ATSDR does not have evidence of environmental exposures that would cause disease, such as asthma, in the community.

ATSDR recommends that D.C. DOH's asthma program continue working with community residents and advocacy organizations to provide asthma-related health education and outreach services.

Who may I contact for more information?

ATSDR Region III Office (Philadelphia, PA)

Lora Werner, MPH

ATSDR Senior Regional Representative
Philadelphia, PA
215-814-3141

Karl Markiewicz, Ph.D.

ATSDR Senior Regional Toxicologist
Philadelphia, PA
215-814-3149

ATSDR (Atlanta, GA)

Jane Zhu

Environmental Health Scientist
770-488-0669

La Freta Dalton

Health Communications Specialist
770-488-0711

Washington, D.C., residents may also contact:

Sharon Cooke

Director of Community Outreach
Washington, D.C. Department of the Environment
202-673-6738
Sharon.Cooke@dc.gov