

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Tentative schedule of ATSDR public health activities for the Stauffer Chemical site:

Release health consultation on radiation dose measurements from 1999 Pinellas County Health Department study, and hold community meetings to discuss the consultation and ATSDR's public health assessment schedule and activities	January 2002
Release health consultation on past exposures to air emissions from the Stauffer plant	spring 2002
Complete compilation and analysis of sampling data and identification of contaminants of concern for other site media (e.g., soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, fish)	spring 2002
Complete evaluation of human exposure pathways, health outcomes data (e.g., area cancer statistics), community health concerns, and public health implications	late spring/ early summer 2002
Complete working draft of public health assessment	summer 2002
Release public health assessment for external peer review	summer 2002
Release public health assessment for public comment	fall 2002

- Due to ATSDR's involvement with our nation's Homeland Security efforts, this schedule is subject to change.
- We at ATSDR extend our deepest sympathy and support to those affected personally and professionally by the tragic events of September 11th.

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES
AND DISEASE REGISTRY

ATSDR Community Update: Stauffer Chemical Co. Site Tarpon Springs, Florida

No. 1
Winter 2002

Pinellas and
Pasco counties



This newsletter is the first in a series that will give local residents of Tarpon Springs (including Pinellas and Pasco counties) information about the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the agency's activities related to the Stauffer Chemical Company Superfund Site. Future issues of the newsletter will provide more detailed information on our work as it becomes available. The purpose of this first newsletter is to inform the community about the status of our activities to date. ATSDR is committed to providing the people of Tarpon Springs with scientifically sound public health activities and other actions that address the community's health concerns about the Stauffer Chemical Superfund Site. We welcome and value your input into our activities.

Henry Falk, MD, MPH
Assistant Administrator
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Update on ATSDR's Public Health Response Plan

ATSDR released the Stauffer Chemical Company Site Public Health Response Plan at Congressman Bilirakis' Town Hall meeting last June. The draft response plan was open for public comment through July 27 to allow the public an opportunity to provide their comments about the report. ATSDR received a limited number of comments on the draft response plan. Most of the comments pertained to issues associated with implementation of the response plan rather than the plan itself. For this reason, ATSDR has decided to adopt the draft plan as its final public health response plan and to consider the comments during implementation of its public health activities for the site. Please contact Steve Richardson at 1-888-42-ATSDR (1-888-422-8737) if you need a copy of the response plan.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Project

Community Involvement: We Want Your Input

ATSDR is working with a small but representative group of Pasco/Pinellas residents from the site area and local technical experts to encourage community input and involvement in ATSDR's site activities. These individuals serve as neighborhood champions assisting ATSDR in coordinating information sessions with their neighborhood and organization groups, providing input on health education material development and distribution, and help in the development of ATSDR's community involvement and health education activities. If you are interested in helping in any way, please call PerStephanie Thompson at 1-888-422-8737.

Health Education: Providing Information to Residents and Health Care Professionals

The Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N) project will provide an opportunity for residents to express any health concerns they might have and questions regarding public health activities. The N2N project also will be a

means to provide site-specific health education to residents. There are several topics regarding the site that we will address through this forum. The first of the N2N project meetings will focus on radiation and off-site slag. In addition to providing health education to residents, we will provide environmental health education and resources to health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, and local health care staff. This information will enable the health care professionals to better address the health concerns and questions of patients under their care. If there are specific topics that you would like considered, or if you have any comments relating to health education, please forward them to Azania Heyward-James, health education specialist, at 1-888-422-8737.

ATSDR Peer Review Process

To ensure that ATSDR produces the best technical and scientific reports, all of the Tarpon Springs technical reports will be peer reviewed. ATSDR's peer review process allows outside, independent public health professionals to review and comment on ATSDR's work. Reviewers' comments will be included in the public comment draft documents for the community to see.

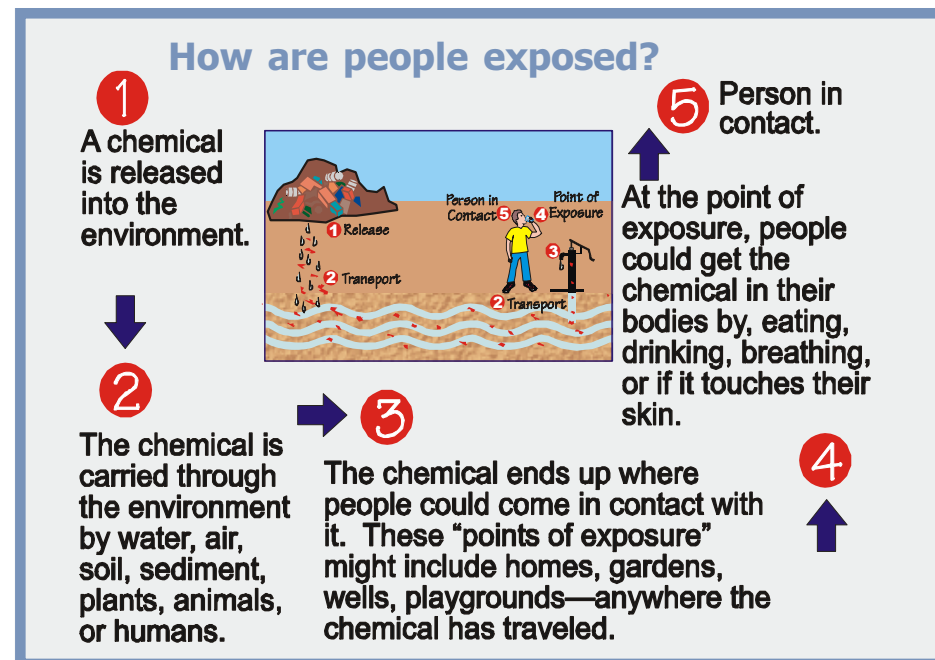
When selecting outside scientists to review documents, ATSDR looks for those who are:

- experts in the given subject matter;
- do not have a personal interest;
- have a reputation for scientific objectivity; and
- lack institutional ties with any person involved in the development of the document.

The ATSDR peer review process helps us to create the most sound scientific reports possible, and adds validity and integrity to the agency's work. For more information on the ATSDR Peer Review Policy, you may visit the Web site <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/science/prpolicy.html>.

Status of the Public Health Assessment

ATSDR is currently collecting and compiling environmental sampling data and other site information for evaluation in the public health assessment. For example, ATSDR is working with local health departments to inventory private drinking water wells near the site and to obtain sampling data for the wells that could be impacted by site groundwater contamination. Both historical and current data are being collected to evaluate whether people



were exposed to chemicals from the Stauffer Chemical site in the past, or are currently being exposed, at levels that could be harmful to their health. The amount of site data and information available is extensive and is taking longer to collect and compile than first anticipated. Therefore, the public health assessment, which was originally scheduled to be released for public comment in the summer of 2002, may not be ready for release until fall 2002.

The public health assessment will evaluate all exposure pathways associated with site contaminants except radiation from off-site slag (see discussion below) and historical air emissions from the Stauffer plant. These pathways will be addressed prior to release of the public health assessment through separate health consultation documents. Please see ATSDR's tentative schedule of public health activities on the last page of this newsletter. A revised time line will be included in the next ATSDR community update for the site (spring 2002).

Radiation Health Consultation

ATSDR recently completed a draft health consultation that addresses radiation issues in the Tarpon Springs/Holiday communities. The consultation evaluates radiation doses to individuals in the site area from data collected by the Pinellas County Health Department in 1999. This document has been peer reviewed by non-ATSDR radiation specialists. After revising the health consultation to address the peer reviewers' comments, ATSDR released the health consultation for public comment on January 16. ATSDR will be holding open house meetings on January 29 from 10:00A-12:30P at the South Holiday Library in Holiday and from 6:00-8:00P at the Citizens Alliance for Progress in Tarpon Springs to discuss the consultation with the community. Copies of the health consultation, as well as other ATSDR documents related to the Stauffer Chemical site, are available in the reference section of the Tarpon Springs Library at 138 East Lemon Street.

Other ATSDR Site Activities

Recently, ATSDR contracted with a local epidemiology professor (Dr. Tom Mason) to identify and locate former employees of the Stauffer plant and persons who attended Gulfside Elementary School from 1978–1981. These people would be included in possible follow-up activities related to the site. In addition, ATSDR is working with the State of Florida to analyze cancer rates for census tracts surrounding the Stauffer site. The results of this analysis will be used by ATSDR in evaluating the potential public health impacts of the site.

**For more information,
contact ATSDR's toll-free information line:**

(888) 42-ATSDR. . . that's (888) 422-8737

ATSDR's Internet address is <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>