

CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES IN COMMUNITIES NEAR CLOSED DUMPS

CALIFORNIA

CARSON, Los Angeles County

Towne Avenue Elementary School adjacent to Mor-Glo Paint & Lacquer Company Dump.

1999 – In the past 10 years, at least 10 of 31 teachers at Towne have been diagnosed with various types of cancer, mainly breast cancer.

FAIRFAX, Marin County

Oak Manor Canyon Abandoned Dumpsite, at the end of Oak Manor Drive.

1980s - Government testing reveals that vinyl chloride, and 1,4-dichlorobenzene in the drinking water wells. Residents are alarmed at the high rate of cancer in their neighborhood.

GROVER CITY, San Luis Obispo County

Grover City Landfill

LAYTONVILLE, Mendocino County

Laytonville Disposal Site and North Road Burn Dump

Health concerns date back to the 1980s, when residents adjacent to the dump reported various types of cancer, respiratory problems including asthma.

CASANOVA OAK KNOLL, MONTEREY, Monterey County

Naval Auxiliary Air Station Monterey (433 acres with multiple closed dump areas)

2001 - TCE groundwater plume is known to extend from the former air station into the Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood as far as the Casanova Oak Knoll Center. Residents raised concerns early on about the possibility of a cancer cluster in the neighborhood. In an effort to find out more, the City of Monterey contacted the California Cancer Registry.

SUN VALLEY, Los Angeles County

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School adjacent to Sheldon-Arleta Dump.

2007 - Faculty have been concerned about their high rate of cancer since the 1980s.

CONNECTICUT

HAMDEN, New Haven County

Newhall Street Neighborhood built on dumping ground

1890s to 1950s - Winchester Repeating Arms Co., Regional Water Authority, municipalities and others dump in 100-acre landfill area.

1960s - Hamden Middle School and Newhall Street homes built on landfill waste

2001 - High concentrations of arsenic, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons throughout neighborhood

2004 - Residents form a coalition to draw attention to their high rate of cancer

SOUTHINGTON, Hartford County

Old Southington Landfill adjacent to Black Pond

1978 - Testing reveals that volatile organic compounds, including trichloroethane, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene have contaminated the groundwater beneath the landfill.

1979 - Municipal Water Well #5 is closed

1995 - State report confirms high cancer rates among people living near the landfill.

CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES IN COMMUNITIES NEAR CLOSED DUMPS

FLORIDA

PLANT CITY, Hillsborough County

Park Road Landfill and U.S. 92 Landfill

2004 - Plant City is one of two Florida communities included in a three-year study of cancer clusters by researchers at Cornell University and University of Vermont after residents report serious illness including cancer.

PORT ST. LUCIE, St. Lucie County

Port St. Lucie Municipal Landfill beneath Fairwinds Golf Club

1980s - Testing confirms volatile organic compounds in groundwater

1990s - Government investigates possible cancer cluster.

IDAHO

MORELAND, Bingham County

1993 - A resident contacts the Idaho Division of Health to report a high rate of brain cancer among people living near the closed Moreland Dump. A state study of cancer incidence states that residents living within a mile of the dump “experienced significantly more cases of brain cancer than would be expected based upon Bingham County or the state of Idaho.”

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO, Cook County

Altgeld Gardens on top of Pullman Railroad Company Dump

1945 - Chicago Housing Authority builds 1,498 housing units on 190-acres of industrial waste.

1969 - After resident Hazel Johnson’s husband dies of lung cancer, she learns that dozens of her neighbors have cancer and other lung ailments. She also hears of children with birth defects and an alarming number of miscarriages.

1979 - People for Community Recovery is founded by Hazel Johnson

1996 - U.S. EPA soil investigation reveals high concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, DDT, DDD, and DDE.

2007 - Residents of Altgeld Gardens continue to suffer from cancers, lung ailments, heart problems, asthma, birth defects and miscarriages. Health studies have connected their illnesses to carcinogenic chemicals in the soil and groundwater. Hazel Johnson and the organization she founded, People for Community Recovery, have received awards from two presidents for their environmental work, and yet the toxic waste remains beneath their homes.

LOUISIANA

NEW ORLEANS, Orleans County

Moton Elementary School and Garden Plaza homes were built on top of 190-acre Agriculture Street Dump.

1994 - Testing reveals that DDT, arsenic, lead, mercury, barium are in the soil and groundwater. US EPA reports high rate of breast cancer in the neighborhood.

SHREVEPORT, Caddo County

Texaco Corp. Waste Oil Dump beneath Anderson Island homes

1997 - Residents file a class-action lawsuit against Texaco Corp. claiming that their cases of cancer, lupus, and other health problems were caused by carcinogenic chemicals within the dump

CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES IN COMMUNITIES NEAR CLOSED DUMPS

MAINE

FAIRFIELD CENTER, Somerset County

1976-1985 - Gravel pits along Middle Road fill with hazardous waste.

1990 - Testing reveals high concentrations of arsenic, mercury, methylene chloride, acetone and naphthalene in groundwater beneath the pits.

1999 - Maine Department of Environmental Protection conducts a health study of residents living near the dump and announces that there is a cancer cluster in Fairfield Center.

2002 - Residents living near the Middle Road dumping area settle a lawsuit out of court with Kimberly-Clark Corp., S. D. Warren Company, Michael W. Wood and his company, Central Maine Disposal of Winslow, and William and Jacqueline Hapworth.

MASSACHUSETTS

ASHLAND, Middlesex County

Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump

1980s - Studies confirm carcinogenic chemicals in the groundwater.

2006 - State study links Ashland cancer cluster to Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump.

ATTLEBORO, Bristol County

Shpack Dump and adjacent Attleboro Landfill

2002 - Massachusetts Department of Public Health agrees to conduct a cancer cluster study in Norton and Attleboro at the urging of residents who suspect their cancers were caused by chemicals in the landfills. Testing confirms groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds

BERKLEY, Bristol County

Bogs Landing Dump (shares a 72-acre property with cranberry bogs)

Residents living in adjacent Cranberry Crossing homes have a high rate of cancer.

BILLERICA, Middlesex County

Shaffer Landfill in Iron Horse Park

Massachusetts Department of Public Health investigations have found high rates of lung cancer in the residential area adjacent to the landfill.

LOWELL, Middlesex County

Silresim Chemical Waste Dump in Ayres City neighborhood

1987 - Residents report health problems including shortness of breath, cough, persistent colds, irregular heartbeat, constant fatigue and bowel dysfunction. Carcinogenic chemicals have contaminated groundwater and a brook that empties into the Concord River.

NORTON (Chartley section), Bristol County

Shpack Dump, and adjacent Attleboro Landfill

2002 - Massachusetts Department of Public Health agrees to conduct a cancer cluster study in Norton and Attleboro at the urging of residents who suspect their cancers were caused by wastes dumped in the landfills. Testing confirms groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds.

CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES IN COMMUNITIES NEAR CLOSED DUMPS

PITTSFIELD, Berkshire County

General Electric Landfill along Housatonic River

1980s - Newell Street residents discover that their properties are on top of waste from General Electric. PCBs are on over 100 properties.

1999 - Residents report many cancers in Newell Street neighborhood.

WILMINGTON, Middlesex County

Olin Chemical Dump

1999 - Kelly Hill residents contact Massachusetts Department of Public Health after a number of children are diagnosed with brain cancer, Hodgkin's disease, leukemia, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

2003 - Five municipal drinking water wells are closed after testing reveals chemical contamination.

WOBURN, Middlesex County

Industri Plex Dump, W.R. Grace Dump and J.J. Riley Tannery Dump

1986 - W. R. Grace settles lawsuit with residents who charge that volatile organic compounds of drinking water wells caused leukemia deaths of at least 5 children and one adult since 1978.

MISSOURI

WELDON SPRING, Saint Charles County

U.S. Department of Energy Radioactive Dump

2002 - After entombing a seven story mound of radioactive waste left from decades of bomb making, the U.S. Department of Energy opens Weldon Spring Park to the public.

A spring in a nearby wildlife refuge is contaminated with uranium. Weldon Spring residents voice their concerns to town officials after several children are diagnosed with leukemia.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ATKINSON, Rockingham County

Atkinson Dump (on Meditation Lane)

2002 - State begins cancer cluster investigation of Providence Hill neighborhood

GILFORD, Belknap County

Gas Services Inc. Coal Tar Dump (on Liberty Hill Road)

2006 - Anonymous letter sent to the town listing Liberty Hill residents who have died of cancer

2007 - New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services ongoing cancer cluster investigation

NEW JERSEY

BRICK TOWNSHIP, Ocean County

Brick Township Landfill, and McCormick Dump

1987 - Testing reveals cadmium and volatile organic compounds in groundwater beneath the dumpsites.

1999 - Federal health officials believe they may have found a cluster of autism, something that has never before been documented.

2000 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirm high rates of autistic disorder and ASD in Brick Township.

CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES IN COMMUNITIES NEAR CLOSED DUMPS

PITMAN, Gloucester County

Lipari Landfill

Volatile organic compounds have contaminated Alcyon Lake and the Cohansey Aquifer

2001 - Adults who attended a girl scout camp by Alcyon Lake in the 1970s

settle a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against companies that used the landfill, claiming their cancers and other illnesses were caused by chemicals in the dump.

RINGWOOD, Passaic County

Ringwood Mines/Landfill, Peters Mine Road

1967 to 1971 - Ford Motor Company dumps toluene, xylene,

ethylbenzene, arsenic, PCBs and lead into Cannon Mine and Peter's Mine.

2005 - State officials report that people living in the area have a higher incidence of lung and bladder cancers, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

SAYREVILLE, Middlesex County

Sayreville Landfill II, and Sayreville Landfill III

TOMS RIVER, Ocean County

Ciba-Geigy Chemical Dump, Reich Farm Dump, and Dover Township Dump

2001 - A six-year government study links childhood cancers to drinking water contaminated by chemicals in the Ciba-Geigy Dump.

NEW YORK

ELMIRA, Chemung County

Southside High School on top of Remington Rand Dump

2000 - Government officials begin investigating a possible cancer cluster at the school. High concentrations of chromium and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are found at dozens of spots in the athletic fields.

HAVERSTRAW, Rockland County

Warren Court homes on dump

1990 - Residents begin suffering health problems including headaches, rashes, diarrhea and breathing problems.

LOVE CANAL, Niagara Falls, Niagara County

Hooker Chemical Dump

1980s - Residents are relocated after studies show childhood illnesses and high rate of birth defects.

2004 - Love Canal neighborhood is renamed Black Creek Village

BRONX, NEW YORK CITY

Adlai Stevenson High School

1994 - At least 36 teachers have been diagnosed with cancer since the school opened, 16 have died.

The neighborhood was marshland before developers brought in landfill and built private homes, apartment buildings and the high school.

Pelham Bay Municipal Dump

2006 - High incidence of leukemia and Hodgkin's disease in neighborhood surrounding dump

CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES IN COMMUNITIES NEAR CLOSED DUMPS

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY

Fresh Kills Landfill, Brookfield Landfill

2004 - Residents with cancer who live within blocks of the landfills are still waiting for their day in court after suing the city in 1993. Benzene, lead, mercury and other toxins have contaminated groundwater on 3,000 acres of former wetlands.

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK CITY

Landfill beneath World Trade Center and Battery Park City

OTEGO, Otsego County

Otego Landfill

2005 - New York Senator Charles E. Schumer announces he has written the federal Environmental Protection Agency urging immediate and thorough investigation of the Otego Landfill after residents living near the dump contact him, voicing concern that chemicals from the dump are causing cancers and birth defects.

LONG ISLAND (MULTIPLE CANCER CLUSTERS)

- THREE AQUIFERS ARE THE SOLE SOURCE OF LONG ISLAND FRESH DRINKING WATER

HEMPSTEAD, Nassau County

Merrick Landfill

NORTH HEMPSTEAD, Nassau County

Port Washington Landfill

OYSTER BAY, Nassau County

Old Bethpage Landfill, and Syosset Landfill

EAST HAMPTON, Suffolk County

Montauk Landfill, East Hampton Landfill

HAUPPAUGE, TOWN OF ISLIP, Suffolk County

Islip Municipal Sanitary Landfill aka Blydenburgh Road Landfill

EAST NORTHPORT, Suffolk County

Northport Veterans Administration Medical Center Landfill

SOUTHAMPTON, Suffolk County

North Sea Municipal Landfill

UPTON, Suffolk County

Brookhaven National Laboratory dumps, RCA Rocky Point Landfill, Heins Landfill, Pine Road Ecology, and Yaphank Landfill

OHIO

GARFIELD HEIGHTS, Cuyahoga County

R & B Landfill (100 acres)

2001 - City View Center is approved to be built on the landfill. The developer is allowed to keep the waste onsite creating a mound 1,100 feet long, 400 feet wide and 60 feet high.

2005 - Ohio Environmental Protection Agency gives final approval for City View Center development. The retail center will include Wal-Mart, Giant Eagle, Circuit City, Bed Bath & Beyond, OfficeMax and Dick's Sporting Goods.

2007 - City View Center is sinking into the toxic waste dump just a year after opening.

Nearby residents have reported serious illnesses for years, including rare forms of brain cancer.

CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES IN COMMUNITIES NEAR CLOSED DUMPS

MARION, Marion County

World War II Military Dump

1960s - River Valley Middle/High School complex is built on top dump

1999 - Ohio Department of Health begins cancer cluster study in response to the high rate of cancer among graduates of River Valley High School.

TIFFIN, Seneca County

Tiffin Dump, on Sandusky River

2001 - Testing reveals volatile organic compounds in groundwater beneath the dump. Residents have been alarmed at their high rate of cancer and have requested testing at the dump for over 30 years.

TRENTON, Butler County

Trenton Dump - west of railroad tracks, north of State Street

Trenton Dump - east of railroad tracks, north of State Street

Butler County Dump on Woodsdale Road

Trenton overlies the Great Miami River Buried Valley Aquifer, the sole source of its water supply.

PENNSYLVANIA

NORRISTOWN, Montgomery County

1950s - Forrest Avenue & West Elm Street homes are built on a landfill

2003 - EPA investigates reported cancer cluster in neighborhood

TENNESSEE

DICKSON, Dickson County

Dickson City/County Dump, on Eno Road

1991 - Testing reveals TCE in drinking water wells of Harry and Lavenia Holt.

2004 - The Holts file a lawsuit against Dickson City and County claiming that family health problems including Attention Deficit Hypertension Disorder, stomach polyps and cancer were caused by chemicals dumped at the landfill.

TOONE, Hardeman County

Velsicol Chemical Company Landfill

1978 - EPA warns residents near the landfill not to drink water from their wells.

Residents file a \$2.5 billion class-action suit claiming that their cancers and other illnesses were caused by exposure to chemicals from the landfill.

1986 - U.S. District Judge rules that Velsicol Chemical Company is liable for contamination of Toone's water supply and awards over \$22 million in damages to residents.

TEXAS

CORPUS CHRISTIE, Nueces County

Landfill adjacent to Cunningham Junior High School

2006 - High cancer rate among graduates of Cunningham Junior High School.

CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES IN COMMUNITIES NEAR CLOSED DUMPS

HOUSTON, Harris County

Gulf Waste Oil Pits beneath Kennedy Heights neighborhood

1997 - 1,400 residents file a lawsuit alleging that sludge from oil pits contaminated their drinking water supply and caused health problems including lupus, birth defects, brain tumors and cancers.

Toxicologist Marvin Legator of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston testifies that Kennedy Heights residents were exposed to PAHs through their water.

HOUSTON, Harris County

Brio Refinery, Inc. Dump

1982 - Southbend subdivision is built adjacent to the dump

1989 - Residents conduct a health survey and find high rates of miscarriages and birth defects

1992 - Six chemical companies and the developer agree to buy the Southbend homes.

HOUSTON, Harris County

Booker Landfill adjacent to Acres Homes subdivision

2001 - For six years residents have been asking the city of Houston to investigate and cleanup the landfill that was shut down more than 20 years ago. Since then, around 70 residents have developed cancer and 22 have died.

UTAH

SPANISH FORK, Utah County

Spanish Fork Ranch subdivision built on top of closed Spanish Fork Landfill

2001 - Residents who suffered illnesses and hair loss sue the developer who built their community.

The County Health Department orders all homes moved.

VERMONT

RUTLAND, Rutland County

Rutland Town Elementary School built on contaminated fill soils. Faculty reports high rate of cancer.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHAFIN HOLLOW, CHAUNCEY, Logan County

Old town dump used by Omar mercantile is beneath Omar Elementary School

2003 - Cancer cluster investigation of Omar Elementary School