



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



Biweekly Bulletin July 28, 2010

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning environmental contributors to human health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. They are archived and searchable on our website: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

CHE-WA Highlights

Children First: Promoting Ecological Health for the Whole Child

This groundbreaking one-day symposium October 1st in San Francisco will highlight a range of interacting factors that influence child health and development, including nutrition, education, socioeconomic status, exposures to toxic chemicals, and access to preventive health care.

[Visit the website.](#)

Lessons Learned

What in the World Were We Thinking?

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, killing an estimated 80,000 people directly and destroying 68% of the city's buildings. On August 9, 1945, Nagasaki was the target of the world's second atomic bomb attack when the northern portion of the city was destroyed and an estimated 39,000 people were killed. According to statistics given at the Nagasaki Peace Park, the dead totaled 73,884, injured 74,909 and diseased 120,820. Most of those who died were civilians. The effects of the bomb were felt for years after, as people became sick from radiation poisoning.



The plutonium for the Nagasaki bomb was produced at B-Reactor in Hanford, Washington, the first large-scale reactor to go critical. The Hanford Nuclear Reservation is one of the most contaminated sites in the world. We are now spending billions of dollars to remediate and contain the chemical and radiological hazards.

Nuclear weapons indiscriminately kill men, women and children. Children are more vulnerable given their developing organs and inability to care for themselves. The first week of August is time to consider how we can all work toward creating a more peaceful and healthy world that allows everyone an opportunity to reach and maintain their full potential.

Learn more about Hiroshima - <http://toxipedia.org/x/BA8>

Learn more about Nagasaki - <http://toxipedia.org/x/CA8>

Learn more about Hanford - <http://www.wanmec.org>

Looking back to go forward

Lessons Learned is a CHE-WA bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy

environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](#).

Announcements

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

[Call for comments: Interim Evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.](#)

In order to provide the experts with a range of opinions and views about the functioning and achievements of FP7, this interactive consultation has been set up to allow for contributions both from those with direct experience of the FP, as well as any groups or individuals who wish to give their views.

[EPA releases rulemaking guidance on environmental justice.](#)

EPA is seeking public feedback on how to best implement and improve the guide for agency staff to further advance efforts toward environmental justice.

[EPA's WaterSense Program launches 'We're for Water' campaign.](#)

The campaign will highlight the daily impact that water use can have on energy, human health, and savings while also demonstrating how small actions can have a big impact.

[Call for input: Congress for the New Urbanism \(CNU\).](#)

CNU 19 will build on the theme of "Growing Local." A new interactive platform will make your suggestions visible to other CNU members, who can comment and vote on them.

[Call for abstracts: NEHA 75th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition.](#)

The conference will be held June 15 - 18, 2011, and the submission deadline is October 15, 2010.

[Other calls for proposals and presentations are listed in [CHE's searchable calendar](#)]

[EPA and other federal agencies collaborate to improve chemical screening.](#)

The Tox21 collaboration merges federal agency resources (research, funding and testing tools) to develop ways to more effectively predict how chemicals will affect human health and the environment.

[See a related article: [FDA joins effort to improve chemical screening](#)]

[Online Environmental Bootcamp.](#)

This online course from the EPA Institute provides a broad range of training in numerous air, water and waste regulations and their applicability to different industries.

[Job opening: Fairfax, Virginia.](#)

The George Mason University, Department of Communication is seeking a tenure-track Assistant Professor to teach and conduct research on issues related to health, risk and/or strategic communication.

[Job opening: Berkeley, California.](#)

The Environmental Chemistry Laboratory has an opening for an Association of Public Health Laboratories Environmental Fellow for a period of 1-2 years. Applications are due August 25, 2010.

Upcoming Events

Online Calendar. These and more upcoming events, including calls for proposals and for abstracts, are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.chenw.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>.

1) The Human Health Effects of the Gulf Coast Oil Spill: A Summary of the IOM Workshop

Thursday July 29, 2010

1:00 p.m. Pacific / 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

The Gulf oil spill is now being called the largest single environmental disaster in our nation's history. The impact on the gulf ecosystem is only beginning to be assessed. And what of potential impacts on human health? The Institute of Medicine recently convened a meeting on that topic, and we will hear from some of the leading participants in that meeting about known and suspected health implications of the spread of crude oil and of efforts to contain and clean it. Featured speakers will include Linda Rosenstock, MD, MPH, dean of the UCLA School of Public Health; and Brenda Eskenazi, PhD, Jennifer and Brian Maxwell Professor of Maternal and Child Health and Epidemiology and director of the Center for Children's Environmental Health Research at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

2) Public Engagement for Environmental Issues

Tuesday through Thursday, August 3 - 5, 2010

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at EOS Alliance Headquarters, 650 South Orcas Street Suite 220

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

description

Price: Public consultation and engagement over resource development and environmental issues are a legal mandate, a moral imperative, and a primary mechanism for understanding and reducing public conflict and opposition. Public engagement can allow for better project management by identifying critical public concerns and inviting the public to constructively resolve them. This course will introduce participants to the core concepts of public engagement, including its strengths and limitations, its appropriate uses and misuses, and the strategies and tools through which it can be achieved. On the last day of the course, we will apply these principles to real-life situations. Participants are encouraged to bring in their own "problems" as material for this exercise.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

3) The Hidden Hazards of Coal Development in Alaska: Public Health and Coal Combustion Waste

Wednesday August 11, 2010

9:00 a.m. Alaska / 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska and Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Coal combustion waste, or coal ash, is the material that remains after coal is burned. Coal ash may contain heavy metals, radioactive elements, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and particulate matter, all of which contribute to public health and environmental problems. Alaska currently has six coal-fired power plants, all located between Healy and Fairbanks in Alaska's Interior. Coal ash from these facilities is used as fill in local areas, including public spaces, university grounds, and residential neighborhoods, which may pose a health hazard to nearby communities. Improper disposal of this waste in holding ponds or landfill sites may also result in hazardous exposures. Join us for a discussion of the dangerous chemicals in coal ash, how these chemicals may affect our health, air, water and food, and how you can help to protect Alaskans from the health hazards of coal ash.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714 or diana@akaction.org

4) CHE Café Call: On the Ground in the Gulf Coast: A Conversation with Wilma Subra and Michael Lerner

Thursday August 12, 2010

10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Wilma Subra is one of the foremost resource scientists for low-income communities in the Gulf Coast. This MacArthur Prize-winning chemist has dedicated her career to helping low-income communities get the facts they need about their chemical exposures and the implications for their health. She has worked tirelessly since the BP oil disaster to help communities and disaster workers understand their exposures. This conversation will bring the CHE community up to date on her latest findings. Michael Lerner is vice-chair and co-founder of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment and president of Commonweal, a health and environment institute in Bolinas, California.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, info@healthandenvironment.org

5) Writing Policies and Procedures

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 24 - 25, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lacey, Washington

at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, Heritage Hall, 3054 Carpenter Road SE

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

Clear, concise, and current policies and procedures save time and money, reduce confusion and liability, and stabilize staff action despite turnover. In this two-day workshop, any staff member can learn to write rules and directions that people can understand and use. The course prepares participants to think through policies, procedures, and task outlines more effectively, and to write them in a more readable style. Come and learn the most popular format for policy and procedure writing in Washington State - adopted by various state agencies, counties, cities and corporations.

Price: \$495/\$595 reduced tuition available to employees of Native American tribes, government agencies, and nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, and NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976 or info@nwetc.org

News and Journal Articles

[Excessive intake of omega 6 and deficiencies in omega 3 induce obesity down the generations.](#)

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

In a genetically-stable animal population, exposure to a diet similar to that of developed or developing countries was sufficient to cause the emergence of transgenerational obesity, in line with the data collected in humans. ScienceDaily.

[See other articles about nutrients and health: [Omega 3s reduce risk of colon cancer](#) and [Vitamin D may slash Parkinson's risk: Study](#)]

[Line One: Environmental toxins and your health.](#)

Monday, July 26, 2010

On this week's Line One: Your Health Connection, Dr. Woodard hosts Dr. David

Carpenter, Director of the Institute for Health and Environment at the State University of New York in Albany. KSKA.

[DIY tattooists putting themselves at risk of deadly infection, say health watchdogs.](#)

Sunday, July 25, 2010

Hundreds of Scots could be risking deadly infections by buying DIY tattoo kits over the internet. Herald Scotland.

[Mental illness risk for non-smokers!](#)

Saturday, July 24, 2010

Exposure to cigarette smoke is one of the reasons many people are likely to suffer from depression or fall into a state of general agitation, researchers warn. Dar es Salaam Citizen, Tanzania.

[Toxic poultry feed poses health risk.](#)

Saturday, July 24, 2010

The use of tannery waste in poultry and fish feed poses serious health risk for consumers as the hazardous waste has the possibility of directly entering the food chain. Dhaka Daily Star, Bangladesh.

[See other articles about food concerns: [Tasty salmon, whatever its origins, has PCBs](#); [State takes new look at how much fish is safe to eat](#); [Contaminants found in Inland fish but not at levels to trigger warnings](#); [What's lurking in your stadium food?](#) and [Tests find bacteria in fountain drinks](#)]

[Downing diet soda tied to risk of premature birth.](#)

Saturday, July 24, 2010

New research suggests that drinking lots of artificially sweetened beverages may be linked with an increased risk of premature births. Reuters Health.

[See related articles: [Some caffeine okay during pregnancy: obstetricians](#) and [Male fetuses ignore their stressed-out mothers](#)]

[Toxic legacy of US assault on Fallujah 'worse than Hiroshima.'](#)

Saturday, July 24, 2010

Dramatic increases in infant mortality, cancer and leukaemia in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which was bombarded by US Marines in 2004, exceed those reported by survivors of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, according to a new study. London Independent, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [UK admits using DU ammunition in Iraq](#)]

[Girls interrupted.](#)

Friday, July 23, 2010

Exposure to pollution and increased stress levels brought about by erratic work schedules are pushing young women to early menopause. Bangalore Mirror, India.

[What's in your makeup?! New video by Annie Leonard shows the 'toxic' side of some cosmetics.](#)

Friday, July 23, 2010

Cosmetics might make people look more attractive, but the ingredients in many personal care products don't add up to a very pretty picture, according to a new video. New York Daily News, New York.

[See the video: [The Story of Cosmetics](#); related articles: [The ugly side of beauty, some cosmetics can be toxic](#) and [Not so sweet: chemicals in fragrances](#) and proposed new legislation: [Safe Cosmetics Act of 2010](#)]

[UCI study: More toxic exposure for Latinos, Asians.](#)

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Southern California's Latinos and Asians are more likely to live in homes close to toxic chemical sites, including in Orange County, a new UC Irvine study shows -- a finding that is not necessarily tied to income levels. Orange County Register, California.

[Could PCBs help boost blood pressure?](#)

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

People in an Alabama city who had higher levels of the chemicals known as PCBs in their bodies were much more likely to have high blood pressure, a recent study found, but it's not clear if the PCBs actually caused their hypertension. HealthDay News.

[Inside the global asbestos trade.](#)

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Banned or restricted in more than 50 countries, white asbestos continues to be widely used in China, India, Russia and Brazil, and many developing countries as a cheap and effective building material. BBC.

[See related articles: [Spanish court issues landmark asbestos ruling](#), [School asbestos a death sentence](#), [City adds to asbestos oversight](#), [India's expanding use of asbestos brings dire warnings](#) and ['Take-home exposure' fuels new wave of asbestos lawsuits](#)]

[Women: Limit BPA exposure.](#)

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

A chemical found in plastic household products may pose a significant risk to women with polycystic ovary syndrome, the most common cause of hormone imbalance in women of reproductive age and a leading cause of infertility in the United States. Buffalo News, New York.

[See related articles: [Should you worry about exposure to BPA?](#) and [BPA found in some cash register receipts](#)]

[New air quality rules create a stink.](#)

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Developers worry that new air quality guidelines could delay or kill urban housing projects by adding costs and time to the approvals process and exposing developments to more lawsuits. San Francisco Business Times, California.

[See other articles about air quality: [Urban air pollutants may damage IQs before baby's first breath, scientists say](#); [Living near traffic pollution tied to heart deaths](#); [Air pollution and emergency department visits for otitis media: A case-crossover study in Edmonton, Canada](#); [Smog might trigger cell death in the heart, study finds](#) and [Respiratory health effects of exposure to "low NOx" unflued gas heaters in the classroom: A double-blind, cluster randomized cross-over study](#)]

[Research links phthalates in plastics with inflammation in at-risk babies.](#)

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Researchers at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) have identified a direct link between phthalates, the substances that make plastics more pliable and durable, and inflammation in newborns -- and are encouraging more limited use of the plasticizers. Newswise.

[See other articles about plastic: [Toxic Living: Dangers of plastics and lead to children](#) and [Environmental impacts from plastic production updated](#)]

[Self-reported chemicals exposure, beliefs about disease causation, and risk of breast cancer in the Cape Cod Breast Cancer and Environment Study: a case-control study.](#)

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Breast cancer risk increased two-fold in the highest compared with lowest quartile of self-reported combined cleaning product use (Adjusted OR = 2.1, 95% CI: 1.4, 3.3) and combined air freshener use (Adjusted OR = 1.9, 95% CI: 1.2, 3.0). Environmental Health.

[See an article about the study: [Do cleaning products cause breast cancer?](#)]

[Expert advice helps you weigh risks, benefits of indoor tanning.](#)

Monday, July 19, 2010

Recently, the WHO moved tanning beds to its highest cancer risk category, labeling them "carcinogenic to humans." Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Texas.

[Doctors link uranium contamination to disabled Punjab children.](#)

Monday, July 19, 2010

Traces of uranium have been found in a large number of autistic children in India's

northern state of Punjab -- and the metal, used for generating nuclear energy and making nuclear bombs, is thought to be the reason behind their autism. Channel News Asia, Singapore.

[See another article about causes of autism: [Genes' role in autism a complicated connection](#)]

Furniture to be greener, but pricier.

Sunday, July 18, 2010

A law signed this month by President Obama limiting the amount of formaldehyde in wood is expected to lead to higher furniture and cabinet prices, but healthier -- and greener -- homes. It's also likely to increase consumer awareness of a little known chemical and its effects. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Are you living in a chemical home?](#)]

Assessing children's dietary pesticide exposure -- Direct measurement of pesticide residues in 24-hour duplicate food samples.

Saturday, July 17, 2010

The frequent consumption of food commodities with episodic presence of pesticide residues that are suspected to cause developmental and neurological effects in young children supports the need for further mitigation. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See an opposing article: [Panel: Environmental Working Group plays dirty with list and others about pesticides: Scientist 'harassed' for exposing pesticide harm and Federal suit seeks ban of common pesticide \[chlorpyrifos\]](#)]

Drilling company says it will list hazardous chemicals used in fracking.

Friday, July 16, 2010

One of the largest gas drillers in the Marcellus Shale has announced that it will disclose the chemicals it uses in its Pennsylvania wells. ProPublica.

[See a related article from Australia: [Poison seepage could shut down gasification sector and others about effects of drilling: EPA takes new look at gas drilling; Information from gas-drilling companies isn't coming easily, congressmen say; Drilling down on fracking and No letup in battle over natural gas drilling](#)]

Groups denounce plan to use coal ash on levees.

Friday, July 16, 2010

A federal plan to use ash waste from coal-fired power plants to shore up some Mississippi River levees drew objections Thursday from environmentalists who are worried that toxins in the ash might seep into the river and public water systems it serves. Associated Press.

S.A. scientists find smoking actually influences gene function.

Friday, July 16, 2010

San Antonio scientists have sobering news about the effects of smoking. A new study says exposure to cigarette smoke actually impacts the way your genes work, putting you at risk for a number of serious health problems. San Antonio KENS TV, Texas.

U.S. groups target 20 possible causes of cancer.

Friday, July 16, 2010

The American Cancer Society and three federal agencies named 19 chemicals and shift work on Thursday as potential causes of cancer that deserve more investigation. Reuters.

[See other articles about cancer: ['Cancer survivors face health woes for years'; Study finds painters are 30% more likely to develop cancer of bladder; Study: Troops have higher rates of some cancers; How much milk should you drink? For years we've been told it's good for bones, now studies show prostate cancer link; Researchers: Resveratrol a 'double-edged sword' for prostate cancer; No link seen between coffee, prostate cancer risk; Cancer risk slightly higher in IVF kids: Study; Study: Why IVF is linked with cancer risk and Swimming pool disinfectants linked to cancer](#)]

The impact of heat waves on mortality in 9 European cities: results from the EuroHEAT project.

Friday, July 16, 2010

Considering our results prevention programs should specifically target the elderly, women and those suffering from chronic respiratory disorders, thus reducing the impact on mortality. Environmental Health.

[Green Party calls for investigation of shooting ranges as contamination sites.](#)

Thursday, July 15, 2010

The Green Party of P.E.I. has requested that the provincial government test all former and existing outdoor shooting ranges for lead contamination and to add those contaminated properties to the Contaminated Sites Registry. Charlottetown Guardian, Prince Edward Island.

[See another article about lead contamination: [EPA may ban lead gas that fuels aircraft](#)]

[Experts: Vatican Radio transmitters 'pose cancer risk.'](#)

Thursday, July 15, 2010

There is a "coherent and significant connection" between radiation from Vatican Radio aerials and childhood cancer, researchers have said. BBC.

[See other articles about radiation effects: [No strong evidence points to cellphones as brain tumor risk](#), [Are SmartMeters dangerous, too?](#), [Cordless phones emit as much radiation as cell phones](#) and [Childhood radiation therapy linked to stillbirths later on](#)]

[Suicide tied to air pollution and asthma.](#)

Thursday, July 15, 2010

According to Taiwanese researchers, as many as 1 in 14 suicides among Taiwanese youth may have been caused by asthma, a condition that affects about 10 percent of children. Asthma has been linked to suicide before, but researchers say this is the first time the role of air quality has been tested. Reuters Health.

[See another article about asthma: [Where there's smoke there's asthma](#)]

[Gaps give incomplete picture of North America's environmental health: Study.](#)

Thursday, July 15, 2010

The amount of pollution in North America is not fully known because national reporting exemptions and incomplete data provided by some industries give an inaccurate picture of environmental health in Canada, the United States and Mexico, according to a report released Wednesday. Postmedia News.

[Prenatal exposure can shape infants' health.](#)

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

When pregnant mice inhaled diesel exhaust and mold together, their offspring grew up to have fewer signs of allergies and asthma-like symptoms, found a new study. Discovery Channel.

[Oil's impact on Gulf seafood remains uncertain.](#)

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

As the spill reaches more of the food supply, the government steps up monitoring to try to keep the local seafood industry from collapsing. New York Times.

[See other articles about fallout from the Gulf oil disaster: [How has BP's oily waste escaped 'hazardous' label?](#), [Oil in the air](#) and [The effects of the oil spill on human health](#)]

[Another cadmium jewelry recall: 137K tween pieces.](#)

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

About 137,000 pieces of imported children's jewelry sold at two stores popular with preteen girls -- Justice and Limited Too -- were recalled Tuesday for high levels of cadmium, the latest in a series of recalls involving the toxic metal. Associated Press.

[A lesson in reading sunscreen labels.](#)

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

But what exactly are you putting on your skin? It's a question more and more people are asking after reports from an environmental group have raised health concerns about some sunscreen ingredients. New Orleans Times-Picayune.

[See a related announcement: [EPA offers tips on how to protect eyes, skin from the](#)

[sun's harmful rays](#)

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in general children's environmental health: http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins
- For those interested in environmental health and learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the Washington State Regional Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Washington State regional group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)