



Cambridge Environmental Inc  
Selected Recent Projects, Presentations, and Publications  
December 2008

**PROJECTS**

***CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 65***

On behalf of two manufacturers, we evaluated the potential hazard to users of dishwashing liquids and other products containing low concentrations of the rodent carcinogen, 1,4-dioxane. We performed screening and in-depth exposure analyses that addressed dermal, inhalational, and oral contact with 1,4-dioxane and demonstrated that the no-significant-risk-level for the chemical was not exceeded. For more information, contact Edmund Crouch.

***COMMUNITY SUPPORT***

Funded by a U.S. EPA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG), Cambridge Environmental is supporting the efforts of the Wilmington Environmental Restoration Committee (WERC) to monitor the investigation and remediation of the Olin Chemical Superfund Site in Wilmington, Massachusetts. WERC is particularly concerned about the migration of chemicals in groundwater to drinking water sources, as N-nitrosodimethylamine (a very toxic chemical released by Olin) has been detected in town wells in the past. Cambridge Environmental provides similar technical assistance to the Aberjona Study Coalition, a group concerned about two other Superfund sites (Industriplex and Wells G&H) located close to the Olin site. For more information, contact Steve Zemba.

***ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS***

Cambridge Environmental evaluated electromagnetic fields (EMF) associated with electric power generation and distribution at a proposed new university science facility in Boston. We modeled EMF due to power distribution equipment and electrical circuits, and evaluated the potential effects of EMF on sensitive receptors including sensitive laboratory equipment and children in a day-care center at the facility. The results of the evaluation allowed the university to determine whether the equipment should be moved or shielded to minimize EMF at sensitive locations. For more information, contact Rich Lester.

***DRUG OVERDOSES***

On behalf of different clients, we researched the possible permanent health damage due to one-time overdoses of prescription drugs. In each case, it was alleged that the drug was erroneously prepared and labeled by the dispensing pharmacy, resulting in the accidental overdoses. We consulted the toxicologic and medical literature, as well as medical records of the persons accidentally overdosed, and rendered opinions regarding long-term health consequences. For more information, contact Sarah Armstrong.

***ASBESTOS IN NEIGHBORHOOD AIR***

We recently assisted two clients in assessing retrospective neighborhood ex-



posure to asbestos released from manufacturing facilities. Industrial hygiene measurements, combined with typical air exchange rates with the outdoors, were used to estimate asbestos emissions into the atmosphere. U.S. EPA dispersion models were then applied to estimate asbestos concentrations in ambient air at various distances from the facilities. In each case, incremental concentrations of asbestos in ambient air due to facility emissions were found to be small fractions of representative background levels. For more information, contact Steve Zemba.

#### ***ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION OF A HOME***

On behalf of a private boarding school, we reviewed results of air, bulk material, and wipe sampling for asbestos from a faculty residence. We interviewed maintenance staff and met with residents to discuss the significance of the findings for their health. In this case, we were able to reassure the residents that their health was negligibly affected. For more information, contact Laura Green.

#### ***ADVERSARIAL PROCEEDINGS***

Cambridge Environmental staff have served as testifying and/or consulting experts in several recent permit hearings and lawsuits. Claims addressed included: the carcinogenicity of diesel engine exhaust, trichloroethylene, and low-level exposures to benzene; the validity of pre-employment drug tests; likely health impacts of subsurface waste disposal; and public health impacts of fossil-fueled electric power plants. For

more information, contact Sarah Armstrong.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

At the Society for Risk Analysis 2008 Annual Meeting, Edmund Crouch presented a paper, "Health risk assessment perspectives on chlorinated ethylenes: Focus on perchloroethylene toxicity values," and Steve Zemba presented a paper, "Data and decision analysis in the context of vapor intrusion."

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Ames, M.R., Zemba, S.G., and Lester, R.R. (2008). Method 3 risk characterization, Penske Truck Leasing Facility, 407 Mystic Avenue, Medford, Massachusetts, RTN 3-18081, 3-18163, 3-23427, 3-22908, and 3-25815. Cambridge Environmental Inc.

Crouch, E., Green, L., and Hendrix, S. (2008). A Proposition 65 no-significant-risk evaluation of 1,4-dioxane in assorted consumer products. Cambridge Environmental Inc.

Adilman, D., Ames, M.R., Armstrong, S.R., Copley, L.G., Green, L.C., Hartzel, R., Holmén, B., Klens-Caprio, J., Lester, R.R., Roy, S.P., Swift, R., Tyler, M., Zeeb, P., and Zemba, S.G. (2008). An assessment of the environmental and public health impacts of Omya's operations in Florence, Vermont: Integrated report. Cambridge Environmental Inc. and Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

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