

The Davis Enterprise  
303 G Street  
Davis, CA 95616

Letter to the Editor  
Re: Report clears toxic site

While Sharon Stello's article "Report clears toxic site" on ATSDR's Public Health Assessment for the UCD/DOE LEHR Superfund site fairly represents the facts in the report, the report is lacking in facts about the site. The LEHR site investigation has not yet been completed and the Davis citizen's oversight group, the Davis South Campus Superfund Oversight Committee (DSCSOC), has called the investigation to date inadequate. UCD and DOE (the parties responsible for the contamination at the site) are conducting the investigation. It is similar to putting the fox in charge of the hen house in that the responsible parties generated the reports that ATSDR relied upon for its assessment. You can read DSCSOC's comments regarding the inadequate investigation that is being conducted at the LEHR site by UCD and DOE on DSCSOC's web site at <http://members.aol/dscsoc/dscsoc.htm>. As discussed, there is a chronic problem of inadequate evaluation of LEHR site stormwater runoff-derived pollutants on Putah Creek water quality, inadequate definition of the constituents of concern at the LEHR site, inadequate evaluation of various UCD waste disposal areas' impacts on groundwater quality, etc. ATSDR's report did not discuss these issues.

Some former LEHR employees have told DSCSOC that they are suffering from chronic illnesses related to their exposure to contamination at the site and they wanted a health study included in the LEHR investigation. DSCSOC asked ATSDR to conduct the study and ATSDR contracted with an independent group to conduct interviews of those exposed. Unfortunately, those interviews never happened as ATSDR lost its funding for the study. ATSDR's assessment will not be complete without it, and those exposed to the LEHR site contamination deserve to know the full extent of their health risks.

ATSDR is planning a public meeting at the Davis Community Chambers on October 30, 2003 at 7PM. This will be the community's only opportunity to speak to ATSDR officials in Davis.

Julie Roth  
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DSCSOC