

**Additional Information on the  
Unreliable Superfund Site Public Health Assessments by ATSDR**

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Julie Roth, Executive Director of DSCSOC:

Previously DSCSOC has commented on the unreliable Public Health Assessment that the ATSDR made concerning the potential impacts of runoff/discharges from the UCD/DOE LEHR NPL Superfund site. Those comments are available on the DSCSOC website at:  
<http://www.gfredlee.com/DSCSOC/2009/AddComATSDRHealthEffects.pdf>

Also last spring, I brought to the attention of DSCSOC and the LEHR site RPMs and PRPs that the federal congress was conducting hearings on the reliability of ATSDR Public Health Assessments for Superfund sites across the US; TAG advisors and others have testified in the hearing. While the LEHR site situation was not discussed at that hearing, it could readily have served as another example of an unreliable Public Health Assessment made by ATSDR for a Superfund site.

I raise this situation again to provide information on the report that was developed from the congressional hearing on this matter:

*“The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR):Problems in the Past, Potential for the Future? Report by the Majority Staff of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight of the Committee on Science and Technology U.S. House of Representatives to Subcommittee Chairman Brad Miller March 10, 2009. That report is available at:  
<http://democrats.science.house.gov/Media/file/Investigations/ATSDR%20Staff%20Report%2003%2010%2009.pdf> . It was reported therein, “The leadership of ATSDR obfuscated their role in reviewing and approving the February 2007 health consultation and attempted to abdicate their own responsibility for the agency’s fundamental failure to protect the public’s”.*

Perhaps this explains why ATSDR did such a poor job in developing the Public Health Assessment for the LEHR site.

The November 29, 2009 NY Times carried an article (see attached) on the unreliability of the ATSDR Public Health Assessments and further demonstrates the unreliability of the ATSDR Public Health Assessments.

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