



Facsimile
TRANSMITTAL



To: Tracy
Fax #: 910 - 451-5997
Re: Facts Sheet
Date: 9-17-97
Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

Tracy,

The draft fact sheet I spoke to you about is attached. Although it is slightly more than 1 page in length, it can be copied front and back so that only a single page is sent out to your mailing list. There are certain edits that must be provided, e.g., the number of the Fact Sheet and the desired POC.

Steve Sorgen

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~~I do not want~~ Please review and work up Steve to produce an informative fact sheet.

SM.
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Let me review when you get close to finalizing.

From: the desk of...

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Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC

Fact Sheet No. XXX

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Public Health Assessment

Introduction

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to present the results of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) Public Health Assessment for Camp Lejeune. The assessment was conducted between January 1991 and September 1994. ATSDR's final Public Health Assessment report was received by Camp Lejeune on August 12, 1997.

Public Health Assessment Findings

ATSDR evaluated the environmental information on 94 sites and identified ten where the potential for human exposure existed. ATSDR concluded that three situations that occurred in the past were public health concerns.

- exposure to lead in tap water in some on-base buildings
- exposure to volatile organic compounds (cleaning solvents) in three drinking water systems on base
- exposure to pesticides in soil at Building 712

Camp Lejeune has taken action to stop or reduce exposure in all of these situations.

Lead

Some base employees and residents may have been exposed to elevated levels of lead in tap water. The source of lead was lead solder used in plumbing or brass fixtures. Lead was detected in the drinking water system of Camp Lejeune in 1994. As a result of possible exposure, blood samples were taken from more than 100 people. Blood lead levels within this group were all in the normal range. Camp Lejeune took action to reduce lead exposure by informing employees, residents, and visitors on

the importance of flushing water lines before using them, and restricting the use of water in certain buildings.

Cleaning Solvents

Cleaning solvents that leaked into three base drinking water systems (Tarawa Terrace, Hadnot Point, and Holcomb Boulevard) were of possible health concern until 1985 when use of affected wells stopped. The cleaning solvents leaked from underground tanks both on and off base. Exposure to cleaning solvents, such as trichlorethylene and tetrachloroethylene in drinking water at Camp Lejeune is known to have occurred for a period of 34 months. Exposure may have occurred, however, over a much longer period. About 6000 base residents used this water, including a large portion of young married women. These chemicals may cause effects in unborn children. In 1997, ATSDR identified about 6000 infants whose mothers resided in the affected housing areas while pregnant. A decrease in the birth weight and size was observed in male infants born to mothers whose drinking water was from Hadnot Point. *ATSDR advised that these findings must be interpreted cautiously because the number of exposed mothers was very small and the observances may have resulted from chance.* No differences in birth weight or size were noted in most residents receiving water from the Tarawa Terrace or Holcomb Boulevard water systems. However, in Tarawa Terrace, babies born to mothers 35 years of age or older, and babies born to mothers who had previously lost a child before birth, were more likely to have been born smaller than average.

CLW Pesticides

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Pesticide levels in surface soil at Building 712, a former day-care center, were of possible health concern. The pesticides chlordane, DDT and the

breakdown products of DDT, DDD and DDE, have been in the soil since the early 1950s. The site was used for pesticide storage and handling from 1945 through 1958. After being vacant for about six years, building 712 was converted to a day-care center in 1966. When the pesticides were discovered in the soil in 1982, the base relocated the day-care center. From 1966 to 1982, about 60 adults and numerous children attended the day-care center located in Building 712. During this time they may have been exposed to the pesticides in the soil. ATSDR recommended that Camp Lejeune prevent pesticide exposure for about 20 current office and lawn-care workers. In 1993, Camp Lejeune restricted access to the area and removed the affected soil from the area in 1994.

*For more information
contact Tom Morris at 451-5068*



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