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For Bob Alexander #3034

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RELATIVE TO WELLS AT CAMP LEJEUNE

WHAT WAS FOUND IN THE WELLS?

Benzene and industrial solvents were found in Well #602.

Benzene	121 parts per billion (ppb)
Trichloroethylene (tce)	1,600 ppb (75 ppb is guideline)
trans 1,2 dichloroethylene	630 ppb
1,1,2,2 tetrachloroethane	24 ppb (trace)

WHERE WERE THESE COMPOUNDS FOUND?

Well #602 primarily, also lesser amounts in Wells #601 and 608. Well #602 is at intersection of Holcomb Blvd and Ash St. All are in the Hadnot Point Area, an industrial area; barracks are located approximately 1 mile from wells.

FROM WHERE DOES THE CONTAMINATION COME?

Believe to have originated in vehicle maintenance industrial area

HOW DID YOU FIND THE CONTAMINATION?

Found during sampling portion of confirmation study currently underway at Camp Lejeune. MACIP program began at Camp Lejeune in April 1983; confirmation portion began in April 1984. Initial Assessment Study looked at 76 sites and identified 22 sites for confirmation study. The sampling was done with a sophisticated machine called a Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer via the Volatile Organic Acid Test process which tests for 31 different compounds. The technique used in testing the wells at Camp Lejeune is state of the art and involves testing for levels of contamination far lower than normal equipment.

WHAT'S BEING DONE NOW?

Well 602 hasn't been used since 11/21 - it was shut down as part of regular rotation of ten or so wells that supply the main plant for Hadnot Point.

We are developing a change order to the Confirmation Study to step up the sampling of all wells in the Hadnot Point area.

We have recommended that Camp Lejeune shut down Wells 601, 602, 608 immediately; retest all previously sampled wells in the area, initiate daily sampling of the main plant.

HAS THE MAIN PLANT BEEN SAMPLED? WHAT WAS FOUND THERE?

The main plant has been sampled. No benzene was found, compounds found:  
tce 156 ppb  
trans 83 ppb

HOW MANY WELLS/PLANTS SUPPLY CAMP LEJEUNE?

35 wells supply Hadnot Point Plant; it is the largest. Eight main plants supply Camp Lejeune. Hadnot Point - 5 million/gallons/day design capacity  
Type plants line softening plant using spiractors, rapid sand gravity filters

WHO IS DOING THE CONFIRMATION STUDY?

Environmental Science and Engineering, Gainesville, FL; Initial Assessment Study was done by Water and Air Research, Gainesville.

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WHAT DOES LONG-TERM GUIDELINE MEAN?

Guideline number was taken from EPA Health Advisories list. EPA Health Advisories were developed to protect the most sensitive members of the population.

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ARE YOU SHUTTING DOWN THE WATER PLANT?

No.

WHAT WILL YOU DO TO CLEAN UP THE CONTAMINATED AREA?

A decision will be made based on an expanded confirmation study. An example of a possible solution is air stripping (aerate the well water) followed by carbon filtering.

IS THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE AFFECTED?

No, if the substances are migrating from the industrial area, they are moving away from rather than toward the city.

HAVE STATE REGULATORY AGENCIES BEEN NOTIFIED? IF NOT, WILL YOU? WHEN?

Not at this time. They will be notified, if appropriate, after the problem is identified. The substances that have been found at Camp Lejeune are not listed under the Safe Drinking Water Act as requiring a report to be made.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS ON HUMANS OF THE DETECTED COMPOUNDS?

TCE - an eye and skin irritant; affects central nervous system, causes dermatitis, can suppress kidney action, anesthetic.

According to OHMTADS, a nationwide hazardous materials data base, if tce is ingested at the rate of 1 qt/day during an average lifetime at the levels found at the water plant, there is less than a 1/100,000 chance that he/she will contract cancer from the substance.

Benzene - strong irritant at high concentrations; can cause burns; causes dizziness, confusion; affects system through inhaling vapor, can penetrate the skin. Substance has a cumulative effect.

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