

**ATSDR/ MDCH Petitioned Health Consultation**  
*Evaluation of Saginaw River Dioxin Exposure and Health Risks.*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Eight organizations (Township of Zilwaukee Board of Trustees, Township of Zilwaukee Planning Commission, Township of Zilwaukee Parks and Recreation Committee, The Jeannine Collier Catholic Worker House, Sierra Club Mackinac Chapter, Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, Lone Tree Council, Ecology Center) and 22 local residents requested that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) assess the potential public health hazards associated with exposure to dioxin-like chemical contamination found in and along the Saginaw River. ATSDR accepted the petition request, and in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) conducted a public health consultation.

ATSDR/MDCH reviewed dioxin-like chemical (DLC) data for Saginaw River shoreline soil and edible fish tissue (fillets). ATSDR/MDCH used accepted risk assessment methods to evaluate the potential cancer and non-cancer risks to exposed populations. ATSDR/MDCH used recently reported (2007) fish consumption patterns for people eating fish from the Saginaw River and connected water bodies to assess the level of DLC exposures and associated risks. ATSDR/MDCH found that many of the past and current Saginaw River fish consumption patterns are a *public health hazard*. ATSDR/MDCH found that additional shoreline DLC soil data would be required to conduct a soil exposure assessment.

The report can be found on-line at [www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxics](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxics), under “Health Assessments and Related Documents”, then open the section called “Dioxins.” Questions can be directed to Kory Groetsch at 517-335-9935 (201 Townsend St., Lansing, MI).