



Governor's Task Force on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation

July 20th, 2016

4:00 – 6:00

Portsmouth City Council Chambers

Municipal Complex

1 Junkins Ave.,

Portsmouth, NH

Attendees: Commissioner Jeffery Meyers, Representative Tom Sherman, Senator Nancy Stiles, Gerardo Milan-Ramos (EPA), Representative David Borden, Representative Laura Pantelakos, Representative Rebecca McGrath, Representative Pamela Gordon, Senator Martha Fuller-Clark, James Zuckerman, Mike Magnant, Martha Wassell, Kim McNamara, Kelly Halldorson, Mindi Messmer, Mike Wimsatt (DES), Amy Kennedy (Governor's Office), Benjamin Chan (DHHS), Patricia Tilley (DHHS), Oggie Ng (DHHS), Debanond Chakraborty (DHHS), Jake Leon (DHHS)

Public Attendees: Lynne Thomas, Beth Roth, Kate Helm, Deb White, Laura Haselton, Andrea Amico, Linda Kling, Chris Nond, Sandra Gauratis, Stephen Sewall, Janet Tibbetta, Henry Veilleux

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Jeffrey Meyers, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services welcomed the Task Force and members of the public and thanked the Governor's Office, EPA and the Division of Public Health Services for their leadership in the ongoing Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation. Representative Tom Sherman reminded the Task Force of its goal of "communication and collaboration" ensuring that the entire community is updated throughout the investigation.

2. Coakley Well Testing (EPA)

- a. Gerardo Millan-Ramos, Project Manager, U.S. EPA - New England, Region 1, provided an update on testing at the Coakley Landfill.
- b. Because monitoring wells adjacent to the Coakley landfill were found to have elevated levels of PFC's, in May 2016, samples were taken on additional private wells to monitor for containments. These samples were collected with help from NH Department of Environmental Services. There will be a public news release when the results from these samples are validated.
- c. The following remarks were in response to questions from the Task Force and the Public:
 - i. Surface water testing has not occurred this summer due to very dry conditions (ie , no surface water to be found). Surface water testing may be resumed in the fall.
 - ii. Some standards are different between MA and NH. If requested, Jim Murphy will give an update at a future Task Force meeting to talk about standards for drinking water.
 - iii. EPA expects that PFCs will be within the current known plume, but they are testing outside that plume to be cautious. If PFC's are found outside the current boundary, EPA will investigate and analyze the data to determine next steps.



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- iv. If residential wells have high PFC's , NH DHHS will make free blood testing available to these families.

3. Seabrook Monitoring (DHHS)

- a. Debanond Chakraborty, NH DPHS Radioanalytical Chemistry Laboratory provided an overview of the NH DHHS process for Radiological Environmental Monitoring.
- b. NH DPHS Radioanalytical Chemistry Laboratory monitors more than 700 samples a year from throughout the state including dairy, seafood, ocean water, sediment, air filters, Thermoluminescent Dosimeters (TLDs), etc.
- c. No activity greater than the normal and expected background levels has been detected, other than a brief incident following the Fukushima incident in 2011.

4. C-10 Presentation

- a. Representatives presented from the C-10 Research & Education Foundation, a non-profit organization established to address the health and safety issues related to the Seabrook nuclear power plant. C-10 monitors radiological emissions within 15 MA communities and 3 NH communities in the Seabrook Emergency Planning Zone.

5. Cluster Investigation Update

- a. The Community Advisory Group has finished drafting the voluntary Questionnaire that will be sent to families. Questions will focus on personal health behaviors, possible genetic mutations, locations of residence, work, child care, school, water sources, etc. Because of the highly sensitive, confidential information that will be contained in the survey, it is imperative that families receive enough information to inform their decision to provide consent to participate. The DHHS legal team is reviewing the informed consent process and providing guidance on how and what kind of data can be shared after the surveys are completed in order to protect the privacy of participating families.
- b. DPHS will work with the Task Force and the Community Advisory Group to use social media and other non-traditional methods to amplify traditional methods to find cases that meet the case definition for this investigation to include in the questionnaire.
- c. At the August Task Force Meeting, Whitney Hammond will further discuss the case definition for the investigation and the process of working with other State Cancer Registries.

Next Meeting

August 31st , 2016 4:00-6:00

Action Items