

## Responses to Questions by the Honorable Gene Green

*Q. Mr. Sinks, in your testimony, it states that the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) has conducted studies on children that may have been exposed to trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) at Camp Lejeune. Has ATSDR considered studying adults who may have been exposed to TCE and PCE at Camp Lejeune?*

*Response:* ATSDR's current and previous epidemiological studies at U.S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune have focused on the health effects to the fetus and child from maternal exposures to drinking water contamination because the fetus is the most vulnerable to these exposures and because there are only a very few studies that have evaluated the effects on the fetus of trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) exposures. Because of this gap in our scientific knowledge, and because the fetus is the most vulnerable to these exposures, ATSDR studied specific health effects in children that may be associated with maternal exposures to these drinking water contaminants. ATSDR is currently evaluating the feasibility of conducting a study of *adult* mortality and cancers among a cohort of Marines who were stationed at the base during the period when the drinking water was contaminated with TCE and PCE. The assessment of the feasibility of such a study will be completed by the end of 2007.

*Q. In the studies that ATSDR has conducted, you have contacted the parents of children that have been exposed to TCE and PCE at Camp Lejeune. If you can contact those people to ask them to participate in a study and create a registry, then why not notify everyone who may have been exposed to water contamination at Camp Lejeune?*

*Response:* ATSDR does not have access to data on everyone who may have been exposed to water contamination at Camp Lejeune. The Department of Defense is the agency that may have data on this population. For the study ATSDR is conducting, we have been able to contact many of the parents of children whose mothers were on base during pregnancy. This sub-population does not cover the entire population of those who may have been exposed, but ATSDR does plan to provide study participants with the results of our findings.

Another aspect of the agency's work is conducting water modeling to determine which housing units at Camp Lejeune received contaminated water during what time period and the level or concentration of the contaminated water. ATSDR has posted to its Web site a summary of the findings from its historical exposure reconstruction work and also the full technical findings. These are available at

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/watermodeling.html>

We have publicized the availability of these data by issuing a press release, and we are working closely with the Community Assistance Panel to identify other methods of effective outreach to the affected community concerning ATSDR work. Similar outreach efforts will be undertaken for the study results when they are available.