



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001 • www.idph.state.il.us

March 18, 2008

Dr. Howard Frumkin, Director
Office of the Director
NCEH/ATSDR
4770 Buford Highway NE, MS-F61
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717

Dear Dr. Frumkin,

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has reviewed the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) 2007 draft report "*Public Health Implications of Hazardous Substances in the Twenty-Six U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern.*" The Department has concerns about how the information is presented and also noticed several inaccuracies in the environmental data.

Because of the way data is presented in the report it implies that the hazardous waste sites and environmental contaminants have caused an increase in morbidity rates in the Areas of Concern. Because this is not an epidemiological study no cause and effect can be shown. The data as presented is misleading.

In addition, there are many inaccuracies in the information given about the current status of the hazardous waste sites in Illinois. Some of the hazard categories are inaccurate and there are multiple sites where more recent health consultations are available, but not cited. Currently, IDPH is working with ATSDR to gather the latest site-related information.

In general, although the report attempts to present important information to the public, the way in which it is done leaves much room for misinterpretation. IDPH recommends that the report be revised to eliminate any potential confusion and to correct the inaccuracies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Hentge".

Gary Hentge, Chief
Division of Environmental Health