

Louisiana Environmental & Health Effects Tracking Program: A Partnership of Public Health and Environmental Regulatory Agencies

**Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality**

**2005 National Environmental Public Health Tracking Conference
April 21, 2005 ♦ Atlanta, GA**



Louisiana Environmental & Health Effects Tracking Program



Louisiana EPHT

- **Funded September, 2003**
- **Objectives:**
 - Establish partnerships and collaborations for data sharing
 - Coordinate EPHT Advisory Group with LA Legislative Act 666
 - Demonstration project: build capacity and methods to link cancer data with groundwater and drinking water data at wood treatment sites
 - Demonstrate linking of environmental and health data
 - Demonstrate utility of EPHT for policy
 - Develop communication strategies



Louisiana Legislative Act 666

- Requires LDHH and LDEQ to recommend environmental health surveillance system
- Goal: Determine the relationship between disease trends and environmental and social factors in Louisiana
- But, unfunded by Louisiana Legislature



EPHT Progress

- **Partnerships for EPHT activities**
 - **Inter-agency agreement between LDHH and LDEQ**
 - **Intra-agency agreement between LDHH/OPH/SEET and LDHH/OPH/SDWP**
 - **Inter-agency agreement between LDHH and LTR**
 - **Technical support from Tulane EPHT Center of Excellence (COE)**
 - **Community Advisory Consortium**
 - **Scientific Working Group**



Community Consortium Members

- LDEQ
 - LDHH
 - LTR

 - ATSDR
 - EPA

 - Loyola University Center for Environmental Communications
 - Tulane COE

 - Louisiana State Medical Society

 - Louisiana House of Representatives
- AFL-CIO
 - Louisiana Environmental Action Network (L.E.A.N.)
 - Physicians for Social Responsibility
 - Resident Air Neutralization
 - Xavier University of Louisiana Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

 - Adams & Reese, LLP
 - Creosote Council
 - Louisiana Chemical Association
 - Southern Forestry Products Association
 - Southern Pressure Treaters Association



EPHT Progress

- **Environmental Public Health Education**
 - **Fact sheets**
 - LEHET
 - National EPHT
 - Demonstration project
 - **Website**
 - **Meetings, conferences, press releases**



EPHT Progress

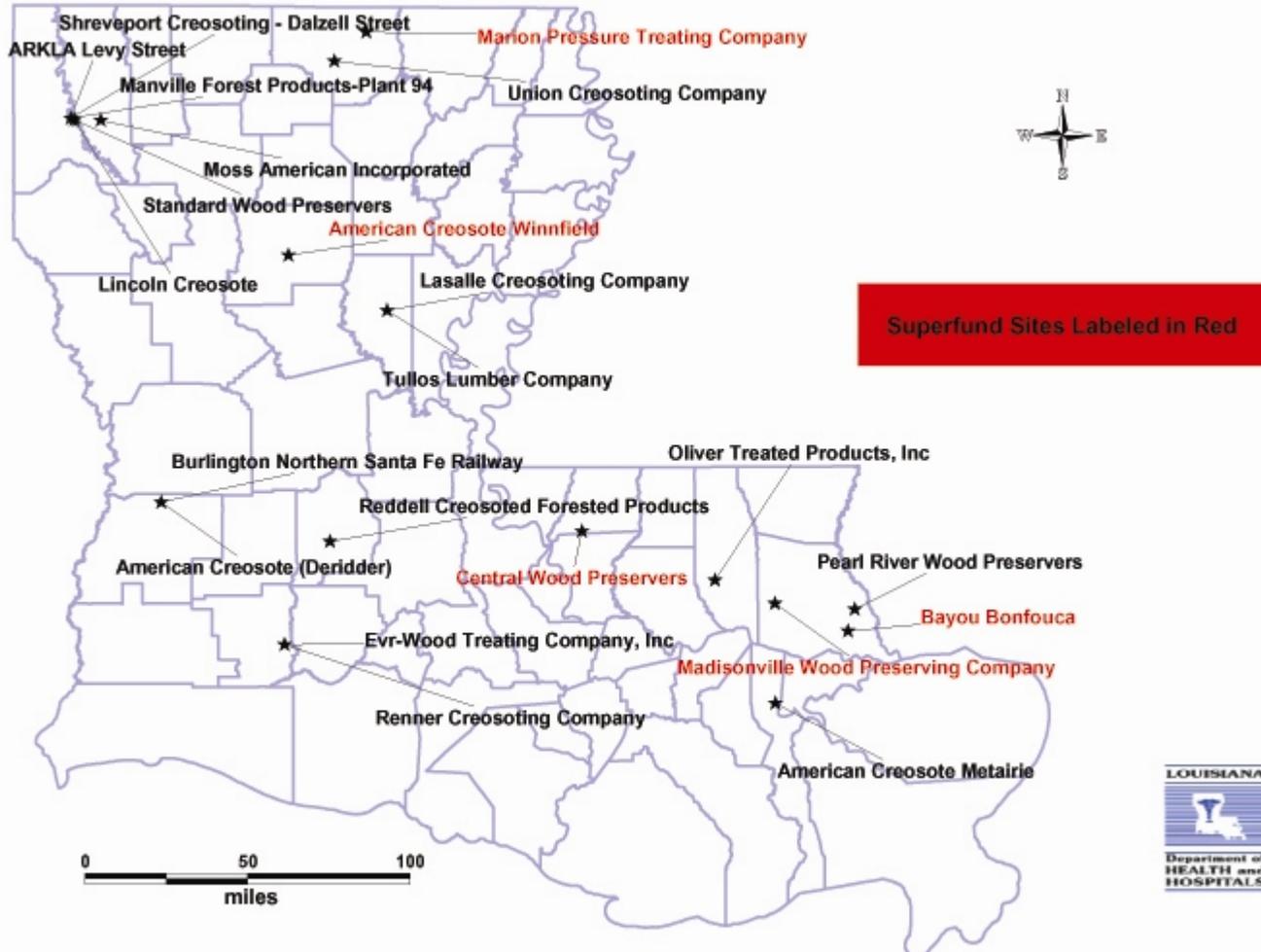
➤ Demonstration Project

– Wood Preservation Sites and Cancer

- Known and probable carcinogens on site
- Pathways of exposures:
 - Direct contact, air, soil, and water
 - Ingestion of water
- Data available
 - Groundwater monitoring data
 - Drinking water monitoring data
 - Statewide cancer incidence data



Wood Treatment / Preservation Sites in Louisiana Included in the LEHET Demonstration Project



Prepared by: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology



Environmental Data

- **Groundwater** – LDEQ
 - Electronic Data Management System
 - 1988-2002
- **Drinking water** – LDHH
 - Safe Drinking Water Program
 - EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)
 - 1991-2002
- **Compounds for Tracking:**
 - Arsenic, Benzo(a)pyrene, Chromium, Copper, Pentachlorophenol (PCP)



Health Outcome Data

- **Louisiana Tumor Registry**
 - Statewide database
 - Part of National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program
 - 1988-2002
- **Cancers**
 - Bladder
 - Lung
 - All cancer sites combined



EPHT Progress

➤ Information Technology

- **LDHH Management Information Systems**
 - Developing PHIN compatibility
 - Expansion of LEHET network
 - Coordination with OPH Lab for biomonitoring tracking
 - Prototype for developing statewide tracking system to interface with the national EPHT Network



EPHT Progress

- **LEHET Geographic Information System**
 - **ATSDR, LDEQ**
 - Site maps
 - **LDHH GIS consultant**
 - Boundaries
 - Point locations (lat/long)
 - Spatial/temporal analysis
 - Metadata



LDEQ Data Management Initiative



Louisiana Environmental & Health Effects Tracking Program



LDEQ Environmental Data Issues

- **Multiple data sources in varying electronic modes**
- **Air, surface water, groundwater, soil data**
 - **Generated in-house and submitted by regulated parties**
- **Disparate environmental data**
 - **Needs vary by department function and media**
- **No standardized laboratory data submittal format**



What We Want To See

- **Capability to accept electronic submissions**
- **Capable of interfacing with our other data systems (EDMS, TEMPO, LIMS, GIS)**
- **Available to all identified users**
- **Ability to store geotechnical (boring logs and stratigraphy), gw, soil, and GIS data**
- **Capable of interfacing with diverse software packages (maps, graphs, and plotting over time)**



LEHET Plug-ins

- **Data formats and metadata are consistent across state lines**
- **Can be submitted electronically thru Internet**
- **Integration of all data is a real need**
 - **For remediation data: sites can be compared, trend analyses can be done**
 - **Becomes possible to SEE THE BIG PICTURE**



Questions?

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