

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)

Fernald Risk Assessment Project

Phase 1: Estimation of the Impact of the Former Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC) on Lung Cancer Mortality in the Surrounding Community

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) has released important information in a draft report to community members concerned about their health risk from past radionuclide releases from the Fernald Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC). Findings from this report can be useful to individuals, communities, health care providers and government public health planners and policy-makers in deciding what steps to take next.

Community Members and the CDC Community Partnerships

NCEH will work with the community and other government agencies to determine appropriate education programs for community members regarding:

- results of this project;
- special concerns and needs of local residents concerning fears of lung cancer or other health outcomes that could be related to FMPC; or
- relevant public health messages (e.g., stop smoking, testing homes for naturally occurring radon).

NCEH, in consultation with the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee, the community, and other Government agencies will assess the potential health risks for other biologically plausible health outcomes that may result from historic releases of contaminants from the FMPC.

Working with the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee, the community, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), NCEH will discuss the findings in this report with the administrators of the Fernald Medical Monitoring Program to evaluate the potential implications of the results on that program.

Health Care Providers

The Department of Health and Human Services' Preventive Services Task Force does not recommend community screening for lung cancer in persons without symptoms. Health care providers should be aware of signs and symptoms which may be related to lung cancer, and be willing to discuss them with patients.

NCEH and ATSDR will be working with health care providers to share the results of this project and how to discuss these results with their patients.

CDC and Government Public Health Officials

NCEH will use the lung cancer mortality estimates from this project as part of the continuing assessment of the feasibility of conducting epidemiologic investigations in the Fernald community exposed due to the proximity to the FMPC.

NCEH will also work closely with NIOSH, ATSDR, Ohio Department of Health, and the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee to determine the most appropriate follow-up.

Individuals with Concern about their Lung Cancer Risks

If you are concerned about your own risk for lung cancer, you should talk to your personal health care provider. He or she can advise you best about signs and symptoms of lung cancer. (Also see the CDC fact sheets, "Where to find more information on lung cancer," and "Questions and Answers about lung cancer.") The CDC encourages you to share the results of CDC's draft report, "Estimation of the Impact of the Former Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC)" with your health care provider or have him/her call 770-488-7040 for a copy of the report and summary information.
