

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

Fernald Risk Assessment Project – DRAFT Phase II Report

Phase II: Screening Level Estimates of the Lifetime Risk of Developing Kidney Cancer, Female Breast Cancer, Bone Cancer, and Leukemia as a Result of the Maximum Estimated Exposure to Radioactive Materials Released from the Fernald Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC)

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, the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee and other government agencies to determine appropriate education programs for residents regarding:

- results of this project;
- special concerns and needs of local residents about cancer or other health outcomes that could be related to historic releases of radioactive materials from the FMPC; and
- relevant public health messages (e.g., stop smoking, national recommendations for early detection of breast cancer).

Health Care Providers

Currently there are no medical tests recommended for routine use in any community to screen for kidney cancer, bone cancer, or leukemia in persons without symptoms. The Department of Health and Human Services' Preventive Services Task Force does recommend that women aged 50-69 be screened for breast cancer every 1-2 years, with mammography alone or mammography and a yearly clinical breast exam. Experts do not agree on the use of routine screening mammography and clinical breast exams in women aged 40-49, nor on an upper age limit. Younger and older women, particularly those at high risk because of factors such as a family history of the disease, should check with their health care provider about breast cancer screening.

NCEH will work with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Health Care Provider Outreach Working Group of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee to inform health care providers about the results of this project and what these results could mean to their patients.

CDC and Government Public Health Officials

NCEH will use the upper bound, or worst case, estimates of the number of cases of kidney cancer, female breast cancer, bone cancer and leukemia, as well as the lung cancer mortality estimates from our previous Phase I report, as part of our assessment of the feasibility of conducting epidemiologic investigations in the Fernald community exposed due to proximity to the FMPC.

ATSDR is currently assessing the risk of kidney cancer and other kidney disease as a result of the chemical toxicity of uranium released from the site. NCEH's results on the radiation effect on the kidneys will be incorporated into ATSDR'S study.

Individuals with Concern about their Cancer Risks

If you are concerned about your risk for kidney cancer, female breast cancer, bone cancer or leukemia, you should talk to your personal health care provider. He or she can best advise you about signs and symptoms of these cancers. (Also see the CDC fact sheets, "Where to find more information on cancer," "Questions and Answers About Kidney Cancer," etc.) The CDC encourages you to share the results of CDC's draft report, "**Screening Level Estimates of the Lifetime Risk of Developing Kidney Cancer, Female Breast Cancer, Bone Cancer, and Leukemia as a Result of the Maximum Estimated Exposure to Radioactive Materials Released from 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.