

**Jeffery C. Camplin's Testimony for Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society
In Front of the House Committee on Science and Technology's
Investigations and Oversight Sub Committee, March 11, 2009**

http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings_markups_details.aspx?NewsID=2376

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Written Testimony of Mr. Camplin and Illinois Dunesland

http://democrats.science.house.gov/Media/file/Commdocs/hearings/2009/Oversight/12mar/Camplin_Testimony.pdf

American Society of Safety Engineers' Press Release

<http://www.asse.org/newsroom/release.php?pressRelease=1190>

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ASSE IL MEMBER WARNS OF ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT HEARING

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 12, 2009) — The issue of the public's possible exposure to asbestos on an Illinois State beach and alleged oversight by the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will be the focus of Jeffery C. Camplin's, Certified Safety Professional (CSP), and Certified Professional Environmental Auditor (CPEA), of IL, testimony today before the House Committee on Science and Technology's Investigations and Oversight Sub Committee about alleged problems and mistakes made by ATSDR. Camplin noted ATSDR's alleged failure to properly identify and communicate the threat of asbestos at Illinois Beach State Park in Waukegan, IL, has exposed millions to possible illness.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), asbestos is the name for a number of naturally occurring fibrous minerals with high tensile strength, the ability to be woven, and resistance to heat and most chemicals. Asbestos fibers have been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, including roofing shingles, ceiling and floor tiles, paper and cement products, textiles, coatings, and friction products such as automobile clutch, brake and transmission parts. However, exposure to airborne friable asbestos may result in a potential health risk because persons breathing the air may breathe in asbestos fibers. Fibers embedded in lung tissue over time may cause serious lung diseases including: asbestosis, lung cancer, or mesothelioma.

The purpose of the House hearing is to examine problems with ATSDR public health reports and how they have been developed. Congress is investigating possible mistakes made on the part of the ATSDR and its failure to identify the threat of asbestos in an Illinois Beach State Park public health announcement released in 2000.

Camplin, an American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) member active on many committees including serving as past ASSE Environmental Practice Specialty Administrator, is concerned that the public's health is at continued risk due to the ATSDR.

"We are here today to demand accountability for the harm caused to public health by the inexcusable and deliberate behavior of ATSDR staff in downplaying elevated levels of toxic microscopic asbestos along the entire Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline," Camplin said. "I am concerned about the lax behavior and misuse of science by ATSDR/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) leadership and concerned as to why ATSDR purposefully downplays the chronic asbestos exposure to millions of Illinois citizens each year."

Camplin began his testimony by noting in 1993 he took his wife and three young children to Illinois Beach State Park, located on the Lake Michigan shoreline north of Chicago. After building sand castles and burying each other in the sand, his wife noted how the car, the children's hair, their ears, and shoes were full of sand. The sand ended up in their home, the laundry room, etc.

"However, it wasn't sand," Camplin said. "It was asbestos contamination my family and millions of other families had experienced. And today, years later despite efforts to protect the public, our Dunesland Preservation Society research indicates that ATSDR violated its mission to serve the public by purposefully not using valid science, by not taking responsive public health actions, and by providing

untrustworthy health information.”

Camplin noted the cleanup of an asbestos Superfund site done years ago at the south end of the Illinois Beach State Park allowed trillions of asbestos fibers to be released from an unfiltered pipe into Lake Michigan from that time and still to this very day.

“The incompetency of this cleanup allowed large areas of asbestos-contaminated lake sediments to be dredged and dumped on and off shore at heavily visited public beaches. Then, I believe, rigged data was generated to conclude the massive asbestos contamination created was not hazardous to the millions of citizens who frequent these areas,” Camplin said. “Current science discredits and invalidates all of ATSDR’s past asbestos human health evaluations in Illinois, including the ‘rubber stamp approval’ for the Illinois Beach State Park and at hundreds of others sites throughout the nation. Yet the agency does not acknowledge this fact.”

Just this week, ATSDR issued a “Health Consultation” alert which, Camplin noted, fails to warn the public about the deadly microscopic amphibole mineral fibers ATSDR found in beach sand and air. The ATSDR communication, Camplin states, invites families to a shoreline (IL State Beach) chronically contaminated with asbestos...as long as they don’t touch the visible pieces of asbestos. “These pieces of asbestos gets on people, on our children, in our cars, in our homes and ultimately into our lungs,” Camplin said.

During his testimony, Camplin noted several examples that caused alarm including the ATSDR questionable testing times during the year, the finding of tremolite asbestos fiber at Chicago’s Oak Street beach – a fiber that devastated the town of Libby, Montana – yet ATSDR found no elevated risk to human health at this beach, and more.

“The dredging of toxic asbestos contaminated sand continues in Illinois spreading increased risk of mesothelioma cancer rates that are already elevated when compared to the national average,” Camplin said. “How high must the body count get?”

Founded in 1911, the Des Plaines, IL-based ASSE is the largest and oldest professional safety society and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Its more than 32,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members lead, manage, supervise, research and consult on safety, health, transportation and environmental issues in all industries, government, labor, health care and education. For more information please go to www.asse.org.

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Addendum - Three of the major health effects associated with asbestos, from the EPA, exposure include:
Asbestosis – Asbestosis is a serious, progressive, long-term non-cancer disease of the lungs. It is caused by inhaling asbestos fibers that irritate lung tissues and cause the tissues to scar. The scarring makes it hard for oxygen to get into the blood. Symptoms of asbestosis include shortness of breath and a dry, crackling sound in the lungs while inhaling. There is no effective treatment for asbestosis.

Lung Cancer – Lung cancer causes the largest number of deaths related to asbestos exposure. People who work in the mining, milling, manufacturing of asbestos, and those who use asbestos and its products are more likely to develop lung cancer than the general population. The most common symptoms of lung cancer are coughing and a change in breathing. Other symptoms include shortness of breath, persistent chest pains, hoarseness, and anemia.

Mesothelioma – Mesothelioma is a rare form of cancer that is found in the thin lining (membrane) of the lung, chest, abdomen, and heart and almost all cases are linked to exposure to asbestos. This disease may not show up until many years after asbestos exposure. This is why great efforts are being made to prevent school children from being exposed.

EPA notes, exposure to asbestos increases your risk of developing lung disease. In general, the greater the exposure to asbestos, the greater the chance of developing harmful health effects. Disease symptoms may take several years to develop following exposure.

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ORAL TESTIMONY OF JEFFERY CAMPLIN

Good morning. I would like to thank the sub-committee members and staff for holding such an important hearing on the lax behavior and misuse of science by ATSDR/CDC leadership and staff. My name is Jeffery Camplin, and I am president of Camplin Environmental Services, Inc., a safety and environmental consulting firm based in Rosemont, Illinois. My chosen research specialty is asbestos. I have been a volunteer for the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society since 2003, investigating why ATSDR purposefully downplays the chronic asbestos exposures of millions of Illinois citizens each year.

My story begins in 1993 when I brought my wife and three children (2-3 years old) to Illinois Beach State Park, located on the Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline north of Chicago. After building sand castles and burying each other in the sand I heard my wife exclaim, "Look in the car, it's full of sand. It's in the kids' hair, in their ears, and in their shoes... it's everywhere." Sand eventually ended up in our laundry room as well. Little did I know at the time that my wife along with millions of other families should have been saying, "Look at the asbestos contamination from the beaches. It's in our car, it's on our kids, and it's in our home."

I have been working for the last six years with Mr. Paul Kakuris, President of the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society. Our research indicates that ATSDR has violated its mission to serve the public by purposefully not using valid science, by not taking responsive public health actions, and by providing untrustworthy health information. Specifically:

- ATSDR has become a complacent agency, choosing to produce outdated, inferior work products when they know that more valid science exists.
- When ATSDR's ethics and competence are challenged, a great wall of arrogance and denials appears from their leadership to strenuously fend off requests for accountability.
- ATSDR also takes advantage of the public's gullibility to trust in an Agency that is ethically bankrupt.

The egotistical leadership and complacent culture of this once great agency needs a total overhaul. However, that is not enough: **We are here today to demand accountability for the harm caused to public health by the inexcusable and deliberate behavior of ATSDR staff in downplaying elevated levels of toxic microscopic asbestos along the entire Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline.**

Evidence demonstrates the USEPA and the State of Illinois, along with ATSDR, bungled the cleanup of an asbestos Superfund site at the south end of Illinois Beach State Park, allowing trillions of asbestos fibers to be released from an unfiltered pipe into Lake Michigan to this very day. Their incompetency also allowed large areas of asbestos-contaminated lake sediments to be dredged and dumped on and off shore at heavily visited public beaches. Federal agencies and the State of Illinois then generated rigged data to conclude the massive asbestos contamination they created was not hazardous to the millions of citizens who frequent these

areas. Illinois is well known for nurturing a culture of public officials with less than honest and ethical behavior. Illinois officials seized upon the opportunity presented by the complacent culture at ATSDR to protect their unethically symbiotic agendas. They obtained "rubber stamped" approval of their intentionally flawed federal and state reports.

In order to conceal the unethical behavior of their staff, ATSDR will tell you that "the science is still developing" while they knowingly continue to use severely flawed and outdated asbestos risk assessment methods. What they don't tell you is that current science completely discredits and invalidates ALL of their past asbestos human health evaluations in Illinois and at hundreds of others sites throughout the nation. Yet, ATSDR stubbornly refuses to acknowledge this fact.

Just this week, ATSDR has arrogantly issued another "Health Consultation" which intentionally fails to warn the public about the deadly microscopic amphibole mineral fibers they found in beach sand and air. Instead, ATSDR's recklessly continues to invite families to a shoreline chronically contaminated with asbestos... that is as long as they don't touch the visible pieces of asbestos debris during their visit. Yet there is no recommendation to the public regarding the microscopic asbestos that get on our kids, get in our car, get in our homes, and ultimately enters our lungs. Maybe Dr. Frumkin can explain his staff's findings that deceitfully conceal this hazard from the public.

Examples of other indiscretions by ATSDR include:

1. ATSDR generated beach asbestos exposure results in 2006 that the USEPA identified as potentially harmful to human health. ATSDR dismissed the criticism by the USEPA along with our ethics violation charges and published the report stating the beaches were safe anyway.
2. In over a decade of testing, ATSDR has never performed or reviewed any air sampling data that was obtained during the hot, dry, dusty months of June through Mid-August. They intentionally test outside the beach season when the beaches are damp and cooler.
3. ATSDR found no elevated risk to human health from the rare but virulent asbestos fiber called tremolite found on Chicago's Oak Street beach. Tremolite asbestos-contamination has already devastated the town of Libby, Montana with one of the highest mesothelioma cancer rates in the nation.

The fraudulent findings of ATSDR created a welcome permission slip for the continued dredging of toxic asbestos contaminated sand in Illinois. Spreading the contaminated dredge material on the shoreline increases the risk of mesothelioma cancer rates in Lake and Cook counties along Lake Michigan that are already elevated when compared to the national average. How high must the body count get before ATSDR admits there is a problem?

In 2004, then Illinois State Senator Barrack Obama best summed up our feelings when asked by a reporter about the asbestos contamination along the Illinois shoreline: Our current President said at the time,

"We can't have our kids swimming in areas that might be contaminated with asbestos." He then stated they should consider shutting down the asbestos-contaminated shoreline.

Precautionary protections are necessary to address this continuing public health disaster and egregious violation of the public trust from getting any worse.

- The first urgent step is for ATSDR to acknowledge that their past studies are flawed.
- Next, limit the public's exposure to the asbestos-laden shoreline beaches until scientifically valid exposure assessments can be completed in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner.
- The final step is to hold all parties liable for their actions. ATSDR officials (Mark Johnson, Jim Durant, John Wheeler, and Howard Frumkin), along with State of Illinois and USEPA officials must be held accountable for their egregious and potentially criminal behavior that has resulted in millions of innocent families being unwittingly exposed to deadly amphibole asbestos fibers.

On behalf of the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society and the citizens of Illinois, I want to thank you for this opportunity.

I will now address any questions you may have.



Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society

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RE: March 12, 2009 Subcommittee Hearing on ATSDR
Illinois Dunesland's Statement on "Human Impacts of Scientific Fraud in ATSDR/CDC's
Studies and Consultations"

We would like to thank the subcommittee for choosing to review these important issues. Our country needs to know, in an open and transparent manner, what ATSDR/CDC's scientific fraud translates into and how their arrogant and cavalier behavior has adversely affected humanity. The IMPACT that ATSDR/CDC's scientific fraud has on the public's health and safety has not been FORMALLY addressed by the House Subcommittee on Investigations & Oversight. Further information can be found about these concerns on our web site, <http://illinoisdunesland.org/>.

President Obama, his family, and millions of others have used the asbestos contaminated Illinois shoreline and believed the "experts'" announcements in the media that the beaches are safe. Therefore, shouldn't the President and the public know about the scientific fraud, those potential exposures, and how they impact their health and safety?

The City of Chicago has concealed from the International Olympic Committee that asbestos has contaminated its beaches http://www.illinoisdunesland.org/pdf/Chicago_Water_Bureau_Asbestos_Study.pdf. Wouldn't the IOC want to know about ATSDR/CDC's scientific fraud and its potential impacts on public health, too?

The exposure of the public to asbestos, including amphiboles, on Illinois's beaches is more than the epidemics in Libby, MT and El Dorado, CA combined. The irony is that the end purpose of ATSDR/CDC is to protect the public's health and safety. EWG (Environmental Working Group in Washington) has found Illinois's Cook and Lake counties along Lake Michigan to rank in the top ten nationally in mesothelioma deaths with no naturally occurring asbestos in the area. The deaths are substantially underestimated.

45 miles of Illinois's (and apparently Indiana's) shoreline on Lake Michigan have been impacted by ATSDR/CDC's misconduct. ATSDR/CDC has continued to cover up the asbestos contamination through conflicts of interest, willful scientific fraud, manipulation of their studies, and through their consultation to other agencies. The manifestation of this behavior impacts the health and safety of millions of people who visit all the asbestos-contaminated beaches in Illinois (and Indiana) and have been exposed to inhaling airborne, microscopic asbestos.

The subcommittee should formally investigate the manifestations on the public health, the intent, and motivations of ATSDR/CDC's "cooked" reports on asbestos. ATSDR/CDC shares

responsibility in the contamination of the entire Illinois/Indiana shoreline because of the agencies' apparent scientific fraud and manipulation of their testing protocols, reports, and consultations. Millions of unwitting beach users are exposed to inhaling invisible, airborne asbestos - including amphiboles. These massive exposures to asbestos affect many millions of people in Illinois and Indiana.

The seriousness of ATSDR/CDC's misbehavior and the resulting exposure of all the people of Illinois/Indiana and the tourists who visit these beaches are incalculable. The agency knowingly allowed their corrupt science and immoral conduct to manifest the deadly results. They failed to protect the public health/safety and the environment which is their responsibility.

John Villarreal lived in one of the coastal towns and walked the beaches several times a month. At 38 years old, he discovered he had mesothelioma and died within two or three years. His only known exposure to asbestos was on the beaches he loved to walk. His case is one of many non-occupational deaths due to asbestos.

Some of the examples of the way ATSDR/CDC "conducted" or "consulted," including activity-based testing are:

- Turning cassette testing units backwards to collect less asbestos
- Placing a weather station near a building to block the true wind velocity during a test; when it is too windy, test results are then further skewed
- Removing testing samples from a study, thereby eliminating their impact
- Extensive conflict of interest between ATSDR/CDC and USEPA; officials would change "hats" and review each others' work (See 2007 & 2008 Inspector General complaints that will be posted on our web site this month.)
- ATSDR/CDC stood by while state agencies only warned the public about chunks of asbestos (RACM) on a fraction of the contaminated beaches while having full knowledge that millions of people were being exposed to inhaling these deadly, invisible fibers when they visited all the beaches and then disturbed the sand. In response to this void, Dunesland's consultant, Jeffery C. Camplin, produced an Asbestos Tips Flyer http://asbestosbeach.com/uploads/IBSP_Asbestos_Flyer_final_version_9-3-04.pdf, warning of airborne asbestos and safety tips to protect the public. The state refused to place the flyer in the information display racks at the state park. Dunesland filed a First Amendment lawsuit <http://illinoisdunesland.org/Asbestos2.html> in federal court.

It is unconscionable that ATSDR/CDC had years of involvement in lulling other agencies and the citizens of Illinois/Indiana into an apparent false sense of security with their willfully "rigged" science which facilitated millions of people on all Illinois (and apparently Indiana) beaches into being exposed to inhalation of deadly, invisible asbestos fibers, including amphiboles. The resulting contamination has spread over the entire Illinois/Indiana shoreline. ATSDR/CDC and its officials should be held accountable for their actions and the expenditure of millions of tax dollars while willfully carrying out their scientific fraud and ignoring the responsibilities which the agency and officials were charged to perform.

Because of the life-threatening risks to the public health and the growing epidemic of asbestos contamination, we request that the subcommittee hold additional hearings to investigate how ATSDR/CDC's fraudulent practices impact public health and the environment. Further review of the agencies' intent and motivations in committing such practices is imperative. It appears that they have become a puppet of special interests.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Kakuris