



Good Thing Science Doesn't Read Blogs

Texas Dept. of State Health Services: *"The only [DISH, Texas] residents who had higher levels of benzene in their blood were smokers. Because cigarette smoke contains benzene, finding it in smokers' blood is not unusual."*

<p style="text-align: center;">Activists deploy scare tactics to attack local energy exploration ...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">... While Texas health agency deploys science to get all the facts</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Denton Record-Chronicle jumps the gun</i></p> <p>"Tests on blood and urine samples taken from residents by state health officials in January have found the same toxic compounds in people's bodies that have been detected in the air and water here. The results showed that exposure is occurring, according to Louisiana chemist Wilma Subra. 'Clearly, it's connecting the dots — which we didn't want to happen,' Subra said." (Denton Record-Chronicle, 4/14)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wolf Eagle "Report": Garbage In, Garbage Out</i></p> <p>"[DISH mayor Calvin Tillman] recounted how Dish hired Wolf Eagle Environmental engineers and consultants to do a study, which showed excessive levels of benzene and other carcinogens and neurotoxins in the air. It also found some town residents tested positive with chemicals associated with natural gas production. (Press & Sun-Bulletin, 2/18/10)</p> <p>"Tillman...has been vocal in his belief that the 11 compressor stations located around the tiny Denton County town have resulted in high levels of benzene ... 'The town of DISH has virtually no heavy industry other than the compression stations,' according to a report drafted by Wolf Eagle Environmental." (Ft. Worth Business Press, 11/30/09)</p> <p>"Six months ago, nobody knew that facilities like this would be spewing benzene,' Tillman notes. Someone could come in here and look at us and say, 'You know what? They've sacrificed you. You've been sacrificed for the good of the shale.'" (Scientific American, 3/30/10)</p>	<p>Texas State Health Agency: "Biological test results from a Texas Department of State Health Services investigation in Dish, Texas, indicate that residents' exposure to certain contaminants was not greater than that of the general U.S. population.</p> <p>"In Dish, we found no pattern to our test results indicating community-wide exposure to any of these contaminants," said Dr. Carrie Bradford, the DSHS toxicologist who led the investigation. "We were looking to see whether a single contaminant or a handful of contaminants were notably elevated in many or all of the people we tested. We didn't find that pattern in Dish."</p> <p>DSHS paid particular attention to benzene because of its association with natural gas wells. <u>The only residents who had higher levels of benzene in their blood were smokers.</u> Because cigarette smoke contains benzene, finding it in smokers' blood is not unusual.</p> <p>Some residents had test results that were at or below expected levels for various VOCs. Others had results that were slightly higher than the levels found in the U.S. population data. However, the type of slightly elevated VOC varied considerably from individual to individual, indicating no particular pattern. <u>Many of these compounds are found in a wide array of commonly used products.</u> (DSHS Release, 5/12/10)</p> <hr/> <p>"The [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality] installed a monitor in Dish in April that provides hourly data on air pollution. In its first three weeks, the monitor hasn't detected any levels above state or federal guidelines. ... 'When you have a continuous air monitor and the results are in the same range, hour by hour, day in and day out -- you can't argue with it,' said Ed Ireland, executive director of the Barnett Shale Energy Education Council." (Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, 5/10/10)</p>