



Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta, GA 30333

October 21, 2011

Susan Bolick, MSPH, CTR
Director, South Carolina Central Cancer Registry
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Ms. Bolick,

This letter is in follow-up to your request for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to review the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) final report titled "Report for Cannon Campgrounds, ZIP code 29307 Area, Spartanburg County, South Carolina." DHEC produced this report in response to residents' concerns regarding cancers rates in their community and the proximity of a plume of contaminated groundwater originating at the former Hoechst Celanese Site. Prior to producing this report, the DHEC sampled private wells near the groundwater plume and concluded that no chemicals from the plume were present at concentrations above the state's maximum concentration level.

The report describes DHEC's investigation of whether elevated cancer incidence or mortality rates occurred in the Cannon Campgrounds. DHEC used the most recent five years of data from the South Carolina Central Cancer Registry and mortality data (2003-2007) and performed additional analyses using all years of available data (1996-2007). New cancer cases and deaths in the zip code 29307 were compared to the expected number of cancer cases and deaths in all of South Carolina. DHEC found no statistically elevated cancer rates or deaths regardless of the selected time-period.

In addition, DHEC investigated cancer rates and mortality in two neighboring zip codes and a geographic area not restricted by zip code boundaries. While there were some elevated cancer incidences and deaths among one of the two zip codes, the types of cancer (stomach and prostate) are not known to be associated with any of the 11 chemicals DHEC listed as potential Hoechst Celanese groundwater plume 'chemicals of concern.'

Given the assumption that DHEC statistically adjusted for demographic differences (e.g., age, race, gender) among residents of the impacted community and the state reference data in their analysis, ATSDR concurs with DHEC's conclusion that there were no increases in cancer incidence or mortality among residents of the 29307 zip code between 1996 and 2007. This conclusion is made after reviewing the final report and discussing additional

methodological questions (e.g., rationale for inclusion of the selected zip codes) with DHEC. ATSDR also supports DHEC's ongoing efforts to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the environmental cleanup currently taking place at the former Hoechst Celanese site.

If you have questions regarding ATSDR's review of the report, you may reach me at (770) 488-3680 or SLampert@cdc.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Samantha Lampert, MPH
Epidemiologist
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Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry