

**Childhood Brain Cancers
Near Asphalt Industry
in Salisbury, North Carolina**

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January 2003**

- ❖ Over the last five years very rare childhood brain cancers have been occurring at rates 11 times that expected in three census tracts near asphalt plants and untreated groundwater contaminated sites in the Milford Hills community of Salisbury.
- ❖ The four cases were identified by a lone physician and may underestimate the actual cancer rate.

- ❖ The ages of the children diagnosed with brain cancers were 3, 9, 11, and 16.
- ❖ There are sharply increased rates of very rare brain cancers in several census tract block groups in Milford Hills.

- ❖ **The rate of morbidity may be increasing: 14 of the 19 brain cancers in this survey were diagnosed in the last seven years (between 1995 and 2002). Just 5 of the cancers were diagnosed in the previous seven years (between 1988 and 1995).**

**Other Health Problems
Near Asphalt Industry
in Salisbury, North Carolina**

- ❖ **Several neighbors in the small community of Milford Hills were diagnosed with multiple myeloma within a few years; three cases in 100,000 is the expected rate.**
- ❖ **Both a husband and his wife died from leukemia in an area with elevated benzene levels.**

- ❖ Rates of cancers of the lung, pancreas, and blood system also appear to be increased.
- ❖ Other health problems heart disease, stroke, asthma, diabetes, and thyroid disease are of great concern because of the types of contamination.

Citizens' Plan of Action

- ❖ **The State of North Carolina failed to protect the health of residents of Milford Hills. Citizens do not believe that the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources will honestly assess the true risks from the chemical poisons that have contaminated this community.**

- ❖ **The asphalt industry and the NC Department of Transportation have failed to clean up this environmental disaster and make the area safe for residents.**
- ❖ **Ultimately, public health officials will need the help of residents past and present to do a proper health study.**
- ❖ **Our plan is to assist in the identification of residents and workers who have been exposed.**

Chevron Asphalt:

- ❖ **Poisoned the air, water, and soil for about 45 years with benzene, solvents, asbestos, lead, cadmium, dangerous fine particles, hydrogen sulfide, and other cancer-causing chemicals by the manufacture of “cutback asphalt;”**
- ❖ **Illegally delayed reporting dangerous contamination 9 years after finding it, never reported friable asbestos, and never notified workers or neighbors who were exposed; and**
- ❖ **Never controlled or treated toxic plant emissions.**

Exxon Mobile:

- ❖ Poisoned underground water supply and soil with acres of oil products for many decades;
- ❖ Contaminated the air with dangerous chemicals from old storage tanks, spills, and leaks;
- ❖ Emitted benzene at levels 1,233 times above maximum acceptable levels next to a Little League park; and
- ❖ Never told residents or elected officials.

NC Department of Transportation:

- ❖ Contaminated shallow and deep groundwater supply for decades; for example, trichloroethylene levels in well water was 7,600 ppb (acceptable maximum is 2.8 ppb);
- ❖ Failed to properly limit or advise monitoring for dangerous solvent exposure of workers or residents;
- ❖ Never told residents or city officials of the risks; and
- ❖ Delayed cleanup which remains inadequate.

Associated Asphalt:

- ❖ Released immediately life threatening hydrogen sulfide into the air measured at 2,400 ppm on site triggering asthma at great distances from the plant;
- ❖ Emitted sickening odors that permeated homes and drove people indoors;
- ❖ Poisoned the air with dozens of toxic chemicals;
- ❖ Unlawfully removed asbestos-insulated storage tanks and pipes in 1998 without permits;
- ❖ Scrapped carbon air filters and replaced with ineffective Ecosorb system to save money; and
- ❖ Grossly under-reported toxic releases.