

COLDWATER CREEK – JUST THE FACTS

Community Group

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The Coldwater Creek Group Encouraged by Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry Public Health Assessment Results

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO – (April 30, 2019)

Today, the ATSDR released a final report evaluating exposure to radiological contaminants left over from the Manhattan Project in the Coldwater Creek area. The Coldwater Creek – Just the Facts Community is encouraged by the results of the public health assessment (PHA) and pleased that the ATSDR considered the concerns of local citizens in their final analysis.

The ATSDR has confirmed that past exposure to nuclear weapons waste, from the 1960s – 1990s, has led to a present-day increased risk of certain cancers. The ATSDR has also validated the need for continued cleanup of Coldwater Creek by the Army Corps of Engineers to mitigate the potential current and future exposure risk.

This is a regional health issue requiring the support and collaboration of all parties involved in order to accelerate cleanup of affected areas, promote health education and awareness in the community, and initiate early disease detection, intervention and prevention programs. The Coldwater Creek Community intends to continue working with the ATSDR and Public Health agencies to educate the medical community, while pursuing inclusion in the federally funded Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which provides support and restitution for Manhattan Project waste communities.

HISTORY

The Coldwater Creek – Just the Facts Group was founded in 2011 by several residents of North St. Louis County concerned with growing death and disease rates amongst themselves, friends, family, and former classmates related to chronic exposure to ionizing radiation. Exposure occurred from decades of uncontained storage of Manhattan Project nuclear weapons radioactive waste at the headwaters of Coldwater Creek. In 2013, the founders of the Coldwater Creek Group created a health survey and shared information they had collected with health officials from the St. Louis County Department of Health (DOH), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and Washington University, and requested a formal health study of the zip codes surrounding the watershed of Coldwater Creek. In 2014, The Coldwater Creek Group, in consortium with the STL DOH, MO DHSS, CDC, ATSDR, EPA, Washington University and St. Louis University, continued to expand upon the health survey that affected all of St. Louis County. In 2015, the ATSDR announced plans to embark on a PHA the Coldwater Creek area. The final PHA report was released on April 30, 2019.

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