
PEOPLE FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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Campaign to Include Women, Children, and Future Generations in Environmental Health Standards October 19, 2006

Recently released federal reports from the Investigative General's office confirm the Environmental Protection Agency have failed in its performance on Environmental Justice, that include it's lack of protective policies on issues like toxic chemicals and radiation levels affecting EJ communities.

This is of serious concern because mounting evidence shows exposures to radiation and toxic chemicals causes cancer, but radiation is routinely used, when we receive medical services, from breast cancer screening/treatment, dental procedures, or when someone has been in an accident.

Environmental Justice communities are unfairly, and disproportionately exposed to high levels (well above background) of radiation, and highly carcinogenic chemicals that have historically, and currently been allowed by agency who points to and hide behind the current Reference Man standards, current policies and regulations allowing such conditions to exist that is causing immeasurable damage to these communities.

Rapidly rising rates of childhood and adult cancers resulting in premature deaths are resulting in Grandparent-less families, especially within EJ communities.

These current conditions warrant immediate actions needed to change the current allowable levels of radiation and toxic chemicals, taking a precautionary principle action to strengthen standards to include and protect those most vulnerable as recommended by the IEER report and our colleagues here today.

The Katrina Disaster is a perfect example of what happens when obvious preventable actions should be taken but are ignored. We must prevent these man-made disasters from ever occurring.

We today along with our colleagues are asking President Bush to retire the current Reference Man Standard that is outdated and not protective of our health, lives and environment, to standards protective of those most vulnerable, Women, Children, Future Generations and Environmental Justice Communities.