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Environment 5138

MEDIA ADVISORY

Saskatchewan Environment has discovered errors in the information provided about potential health risks posed at the berm in Prince Albert by physical contact with dioxins and furans.

Originally, Saskatchewan Environment stated that for a potential health risk to occur from dioxin and furan exposure through contact with the skin, the concentration would have to be over 9,600,000 picograms/gram (pg/g or parts/trillion). A review of the data shows that for a potential health risk from repeated, regular contact with the skin to occur, the actual concentration is 37,000 pg/g for adults and 1,600 pg/g for toddlers. Measurements showed only one location where the concentration exceeded 1,600 pg/g.

The berm remains fenced off. Restricting access to the berm is the most effective way to limit opportunities for contact with contaminated soils.

Saskatchewan Environment believes it is vital to ensure that the public and other interested parties have correct information. Saskatchewan Environment will make improvements, including internal review and independent expert verification where necessary, to ensure that mistakes, even though unintentional, are not communicated or published in the future.

Saskatchewan Environment continues to be committed to providing Prince Albert residents with accurate information throughout all stages of site assessment, the development of an action plan and clean up of contaminated sites in Prince Albert. Our commitment includes honest, open and transparent communication throughout our investigations and dialogue with residents of the affected areas.

Saskatchewan Environment is working with the co-operative parties to finalize a remedial action plan for the berm that will effectively remove the possibility of exposure to these substances and manage the site to ensure its integrity in the long term.

For more information, contact:

Traci Braaten
Environment
Regina
Phone: 787-1611
Email: tbraaten@serm.gov.sk.ca
Cell: 536-3852