



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2007

Contact: Dr. David Garabrant

Telephone: (734) 936 0753

Email: dhg@umich.edu

U-M DIOXIN RESEARCHERS TO MEET WITH COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

ANN ARBOR, Michigan -- University of Michigan scientists studying human exposure to dioxins in the Midland-Saginaw area are scheduled to meet at 6:00 pm on June 5 in the Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street, Saginaw, Michigan, with community representatives to discuss the study.

Dr. David Garabrant, who heads the U-M scientific team, is Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Professor of Epidemiology, and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Michigan. Dr. Garabrant will give a progress report to the study's Community Advisory Panel. He's expected to focus on progress and results since the last public meeting held in August, 2006.

The goal of the U-M scientific study is to see whether elevated levels of dioxins in the environment are ending up in the bodies of residents of the Tittabawassee River basin (in Midland and Saginaw counties) and whether these residents have higher levels of dioxins in their blood than persons living in other parts of Michigan, such as Jackson and Calhoun counties. Jackson and Calhoun counties were selected for comparison because the population and types of industry are similar to Midland and Saginaw counties, but there is no known major contamination of the environment with dioxins in these counties.

Dioxins are considered to be toxic chemicals. They can be produced by industrial and combustion activities. There are known to be elevated levels of dioxins in the soil of the Tittabawassee River flood plain and nearby areas that are affected by discharges from the Dow Chemical Company plant in Midland.

The June 5 meeting is scheduled for 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. It is being held in the Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street, Saginaw, Michigan (map located at: <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-workshop-map-horizonscentermap.pdf>). The meeting is open to the public.

The results of the U-M dioxin study do not identify individual participants.

The U-M study does not look at health effects, but rather the level of human exposure to dioxins and whether the dioxins are getting into people's bodies. "First we need to get the facts about exposure," Garabrant said. "Then decisions can be made about what to do next."

The Dow Chemical Company is funding the U-M study but has no say over how it is conducted. The study is controlled entirely by the University of Michigan investigators.

More details about the study are available on its website at: <http://www.umdioxin.org>

Founded in 1817, the University of Michigan, with its size, complexity and academic strength, the breadth of its scholarly resources and the quality of its faculty and students, is one of America's great public universities and one of the world's premiere research institutions. You can visit us on-line at www.umich.edu.