

Re: White House Delays Release of Study Showing Toxic Rocket Fuel In Most Americans

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"Jo Schaper" <joschapern4ospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:120po5aivv01f@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Alan wrote:

WASHINGTON, March 3 ? Following a published report that the Bush Administration is holding up a study that shows most Americans carry a toxic rocket fuel chemical in their bodies at levels close to federal safety limits, Environmental Working Group (EWG) is calling for the immediate release of the study so EPA and state agencies can take steps to protect the public.

Perchlorate, the explosive ingredient in solid rocket fuel, has contaminated drinking water and soil in at least 35 states, with most of the known contamination coming from military bases and defense contractors. Tests by EWG, academic scientists in Texas and Arizona, state officials in California and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have found perchlorate in milk, produce and many other foods and animal feed crops from coast to coast. Perchlorate is a thyroid toxin, and animal tests show that even small amounts can disrupt normal growth and development in fetuses, infants and children.

Um, a form of perchlorate is also used as dry cleaning fluid, and was the solvent in the form of typewriter White-out called Sno-Pake, (which I used 5 days a week from 1978 to 1986). Much of the groundwater contamination has nothing to do with the military.

Perchlorate and its salts (e.g., ammonium perchlorate) are used in solid propellant for rockets, missiles, and fireworks. Perchlorate has a number of industrial uses, and it's used in matches, flares, pyrotechnics, ordnance, and explosives. You are thinking of perchloroethane (known as

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PERC), which is used in dry cleaning and used to be used in white-out before it was reformulated.

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/external/faq/dryclean.htm>

I should point out that the original poster's article doesn't make it clear that although it perchlorate is used in solid rocket motor fuel, the more prevalent uses are in the other applications I mention above, most especially in matches and fireworks, which of course we all love to watch on the 4th of July. Even more importantly, it is found in industrial waste, which finds its way into our soil, rivers, streams and groundwater. In addition, according to the EPA, perchlorate has also been found to occur naturally in the environment. The EPA reports that perchlorate releases have been detected in 25 states, so obviously NASA isn't the only culprit here.

Here is an EPA report on the health risks associated with perchlorate and perchlorate salts

<http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/1007.htm>

George

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