

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

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.geology/2006-03/msg00212.html>

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- *From:* "George" <[george@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:george@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 07 Mar 2006 18:12:43 GMT
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"Jean" <[jean.lenior@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jean.lenior@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:440d4f9b\\$0\\$21277\\$8fcfb975@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:440d4f9b$0$21277$8fcfb975@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

George a écrit dans le message ...

"Jo Schaper" <[joschapern4ospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:joschapern4ospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:120po5aivv01f@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto: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

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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 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 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

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

George

perchlorates or salts of perchloric acid are common chemicals in use. Sodium perchlorate will be found in most chemistry and biology laboratories.

For uses in testing "Preferred desiccants include, but are not limited to, anhydrous calcium chloride, magnesium perchlorate" Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)  
Potassium perchlorate is used in fireworks and road flares.  
The "explosive" perchlorates are of course unstable and short lived in nature.  
Perchlorates as a group are not considered a significant factor in ground water pollution.

Umm, if you had read the EPA document I posted a link to, you would have seen that they have documented releases in 25 states. Now, if you don't think it is considered a significant factor in groundwater pollution, perhaps you should let us know what your source of that statement is.

George

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