

# 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/msg00233.html>

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- *From:* "Jean" <jean.lenior@xxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Wed, 8 Mar 2006 09:25:34 +0100
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George a écrit dans le message ...

"Jean" <jean.lenior@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:440d4f9b\\$0\\$21277\\$8fcfb975@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:440d4f9b$0$21277$8fcfb975@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

George a écrit dans le message ...

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

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 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

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.

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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

No! You are I would assume claiming that perchlorates are a significant source of groundwater pollution. That is false.  
Nothing in that link you provided made any claim that perchlorates was in any way a significant source of groundwater pollution.  
Prove your claim. Only a charlatan asks others to prove a negative. You claim to be a geologist. Where are you registered? Or with what professional organization are you listed?

From reading many of your posts I would find it hard to believe that you have had any training at any level in geology.  
.. JL