

## ORAL TESTIMONY OF JEFFERY CAMPLIN

Good morning. I would like to thank the sub-committee members and staff for holding such an important hearing on the lax behavior and misuse of science by ATSDR/CDC leadership and staff. My name is Jeffery Camplin, and I am president of Camplin Environmental Services, Inc., a safety and environmental consulting firm based in Rosemont, Illinois. My chosen research specialty is asbestos. I have been a volunteer for the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society since 2003, investigating why ATSDR purposefully downplays the chronic asbestos exposures of millions of Illinois citizens each year.

My story begins in 1993 when I brought my wife and three children (2-3 years old) to Illinois Beach State Park, located on the Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline north of Chicago. After building sand castles and burying each other in the sand I heard my wife exclaim, "Look in the car, it's full of sand. It's in the kids' hair, in their ears, and in their shoes... it's everywhere." Sand eventually ended up in our laundry room as well. Little did I know at the time that my wife along with millions of other families should have been saying, "Look at the asbestos contamination from the beaches. It's in our car, it's on our kids, and it's in our home."

I have been working for the last six years with Mr. Paul Kakuris, President of the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society. Our research indicates that ATSDR has violated its mission to serve the public by purposefully not using valid science, by not taking responsive public health actions, and by providing untrustworthy health information. Specifically:

- ATSDR has become a complacent agency, choosing to produce outdated, inferior work products when they know that more valid science exists.
- When ATSDR's ethics and competence are challenged, a great wall of arrogance and denials appears from their leadership to strenuously fend off requests for accountability.
- ATSDR also takes advantage of the public's gullibility to trust in an Agency that is ethically bankrupt.

The egotistical leadership and complacent culture of this once great agency needs a total overhaul.

However, that is not enough: **We are here today to demand accountability for the harm caused to public health by the inexcusable and deliberate behavior of ATSDR staff in downplaying elevated levels of toxic microscopic asbestos along the entire Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline.**

Evidence demonstrates the USEPA and the State of Illinois, along with ATSDR, bungled the cleanup of an asbestos Superfund site at the south end of Illinois Beach State Park, allowing trillions of asbestos fibers to be released from an unfiltered pipe into Lake Michigan to this very day. Their incompetency also allowed large areas of asbestos-contaminated lake sediments to be dredged and dumped on and off shore at heavily visited public beaches. Federal agencies and the State of Illinois then generated rigged data to conclude the massive asbestos contamination they created was not hazardous to the millions of citizens who frequent these areas. Illinois is well known for nurturing a culture of public officials with less than honest and ethical behavior. Illinois officials seized upon the opportunity presented by the complacent culture at ATSDR to protect their unethically symbiotic agendas. They obtained "rubber stamped" approval of their intentionally flawed federal and state reports.

In order to conceal the unethical behavior of their staff, ATSDR will tell you that "the science is still developing" while they knowingly continue to use severely flawed and outdated asbestos risk assessment methods. What they don't tell you is that current science completely discredits and invalidates ALL of their past asbestos human health evaluations in Illinois and at hundreds of others sites throughout the nation. Yet, ATSDR stubbornly refuses to acknowledge this fact.

Just this week, ATSDR has arrogantly issued another "Health Consultation" which intentionally fails to warn the public about the deadly microscopic amphibole mineral fibers they found in beach sand and air. Instead, ATSDR's recklessly continues to invite families to a shoreline chronically contaminated with asbestos... that is as long as they don't touch the visible pieces of asbestos debris during their visit. Yet there is no recommendation to the public regarding the microscopic asbestos that get on our kids, get in our car, get in our homes, and ultimately enters our lungs. Maybe Dr. Frumkin can explain his staff's findings that deceitfully conceal this hazard from the public.

Examples of other indiscretions by ATSDR include:

1. ATSDR generated beach asbestos exposure results in 2006 that the USEPA identified as potentially harmful to human health. ATSDR dismissed the criticism by the USEPA along with our ethics violation charges and published the report stating the beaches were safe anyway.
2. In over a decade of testing, ATSDR has never performed or reviewed any air sampling data that was obtained during the hot, dry, dusty months of June through Mid-August. They intentionally test outside the beach season when the beaches are damp and cooler.
3. ATSDR found no elevated risk to human health from the rare but virulent asbestos fiber called tremolite found on Chicago's Oak Street beach. Tremolite asbestos-contamination has already devastated the town of Libby, Montana with one of the highest mesothelioma cancer rates in the nation.

The fraudulent findings of ATSDR created a welcome permission slip for the continued dredging of toxic asbestos contaminated sand in Illinois. Spreading the contaminated dredge material on the shoreline increases the risk of mesothelioma cancer rates in Lake and Cook counties along Lake Michigan that are already elevated when compared to the national average. How high must the body count get before ATSDR admits there is a problem?

In 2004, then Illinois State Senator Barrack Obama best summed up our feelings when asked by a reporter about the asbestos contamination along the Illinois shoreline: Our current President said at the time, *"We can't have our kids swimming in areas that might be contaminated with asbestos."* He then stated they should consider shutting down the asbestos-contaminated shoreline.

Precautionary protections are necessary to address this continuing public health disaster and egregious violation of the public trust from getting any worse.

- The first urgent step is for ATSDR to acknowledge that their past studies are flawed.
- Next, limit the public's exposure to the asbestos-laden shoreline beaches until scientifically valid exposure assessments can be completed in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner.
- The final step is to hold all parties liable for their actions. ATSDR officials (Mark Johnson, Jim Durant, John Wheeler, and Howard Frumkin); along with State of Illinois and USEPA officials must be held accountable for their egregious and potentially criminal behavior that has resulted in millions of innocent families being unwittingly exposed to deadly amphibole asbestos fibers.

On behalf of the Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society and the citizens of Illinois, I want to thank you for this opportunity.

I will now address any questions you may have.



## ***Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society***

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**U. S. House of Representatives  
House Subcommittee on Investigations & Oversight  
Suite 2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20615-6301**

**RE: March 12, 2009 Subcommittee Hearing on ATSDR  
Illinois Dunesland's Statement on "Human Impacts of Scientific Fraud in ATSDR/CDC's  
Studies and Consultations"**

**We would like to thank the subcommittee for choosing to review these important issues. Our country needs to know, in an open and transparent manner, what ATSDR/CDC's scientific fraud translates into and how their arrogant and cavalier behavior has adversely affected humanity. The IMPACT that ATSDR/CDC's scientific fraud has on the public's health and safety has not been FORMALLY addressed by the House Subcommittee on Investigations & Oversight. Further information can be found about these concerns on our web site, <http://illinoisdunesland.org/>.**

**President Obama, his family, and millions of others have used the asbestos contaminated Illinois shoreline and believed the "experts'" announcements in the media that the beaches are safe. Therefore, shouldn't the President and the public know about the scientific fraud, those potential exposures, and how they impact their health and safety?**

**The City of Chicago has concealed from the International Olympic Committee that asbestos has contaminated its beaches [http://www.illinoisdunesland.org/pdf/Chicago Water Bureau Asbestos Study.pdf](http://www.illinoisdunesland.org/pdf/Chicago_Water_Bureau_Asbestos_Study.pdf). Wouldn't the IOC want to know about ATSDR/CDC's scientific fraud and its potential impacts on public health, too?**

**The exposure of the public to asbestos, including amphiboles, on Illinois's beaches is more than the epidemics in Libby, MT and El Dorado, CA combined. The irony is that the end purpose of ATSDR/CDC is to protect the public's health and safety. EWG (Environmental Working Group in Washington) has found Illinois's Cook and Lake counties along Lake Michigan to rank in the top ten nationally in mesothelioma deaths with no naturally occurring asbestos in the area. The deaths are substantially underestimated.**

**45 miles of Illinois's (and apparently Indiana's) shoreline on Lake Michigan have been impacted by ATSDR/CDC's misconduct. ATSDR/CDC has continued to cover up the asbestos contamination through conflicts of interest, willful scientific fraud, manipulation of their studies, and through their consultation to other agencies. The manifestation of this behavior impacts the health and safety of millions of people who visit all the asbestos-contaminated beaches in Illinois (and Indiana) and have been exposed to inhaling airborne, microscopic asbestos.**

**The subcommittee should formally investigate the manifestations on the public health, the intent, and motivations of ATSDR/CDC's "cooked" reports on asbestos. ATSDR/CDC shares**

responsibility in the contamination of the entire Illinois/Indiana shoreline because of the agencies' apparent scientific fraud and manipulation of their testing protocols, reports, and consultations. Millions of unwitting beach users are exposed to inhaling invisible, airborne asbestos - including amphiboles. These massive exposures to asbestos affect many millions of people in Illinois and Indiana.

The seriousness of ATSDR/CDC's misbehavior and the resulting exposure of all the people of Illinois/Indiana and the tourists who visit these beaches are incalculable. The agency knowingly allowed their corrupt science and immoral conduct to manifest the deadly results. They failed to protect the public health/safety and the environment which is their responsibility.

John Villarreal lived in one of the coastal towns and walked the beaches several times a month. At 38 years old, he discovered he had mesothelioma and died within two or three years. His only known exposure to asbestos was on the beaches he loved to walk. His case is one of many non-occupational deaths due to asbestos.

Some of the examples of the way ATSDR/CDC "conducted" or "consulted," including activity-based testing are:

- Turning cassette testing units backwards to collect less asbestos
- Placing a weather station near a building to block the true wind velocity during a test; when it is too windy, test results are then further skewed
- Removing testing samples from a study, thereby eliminating their impact
- Extensive conflict of interest between ATSDR/CDC and USEPA; officials would change "hats" and review each others' work (See 2007 & 2008 Inspector General complaints that will be posted on our web site this month.)
- ATSDR/CDC stood by while state agencies only warned the public about chunks of asbestos (RACM) on a fraction of the contaminated beaches while having full knowledge that millions of people were being exposed to inhaling these deadly, invisible fibers when they visited all the beaches and then disturbed the sand. In response to this void, Dunesland's consultant, Jeffery C. Camplin, produced an Asbestos Tips Flyer [http://asbestosbeach.com/uploads/TBSP\\_Asbestos\\_Flyer\\_final\\_version\\_9-3-04.pdf](http://asbestosbeach.com/uploads/TBSP_Asbestos_Flyer_final_version_9-3-04.pdf), warning of airborne asbestos and safety tips to protect the public. The state refused to place the flyer in the information display racks at the state park. Dunesland filed a First Amendment lawsuit <http://illinoisdunesland.org/Asbestos2.html> in federal court.

It is unconscionable that ATSDR/CDC had years of involvement in lulling other agencies and the citizens of Illinois/Indiana into an apparent false sense of security with their willfully "rigged" science which facilitated millions of people on all Illinois (and apparently Indiana) beaches into being exposed to inhalation of deadly, invisible asbestos fibers, including amphiboles. The resulting contamination has spread over the entire Illinois/Indiana shoreline. ATSDR/CDC and its officials should be held accountable for their actions and the expenditure of millions of tax dollars while willfully carrying out their scientific fraud and ignoring the responsibilities which the agency and officials were charged to perform.

Because of the life-threatening risks to the public health and the growing epidemic of asbestos contamination, we request that the subcommittee hold additional hearings to investigate how ATSDR/CDC's fraudulent practices impact public health and the environment. Further review of the agencies' intent and motivations in committing such practices is imperative. It appears that they have become a puppet of special interests.

Sincerely,

*Paul A. Kakuris*