

Midlothian, TX Air Quality Evaluation

**Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

and

**Texas Department of State Health
Services (DSHS)**

January 21, 2010



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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES
AND DISEASE REGISTRY

Purpose of the Meeting

- What is ATSDR's role and mission?
- Why are we engaged in Midlothian?
- What concerns have been expressed by the community?
- How will ATSDR address these concerns?
- How we will communicate and interact with the Midlothian community?



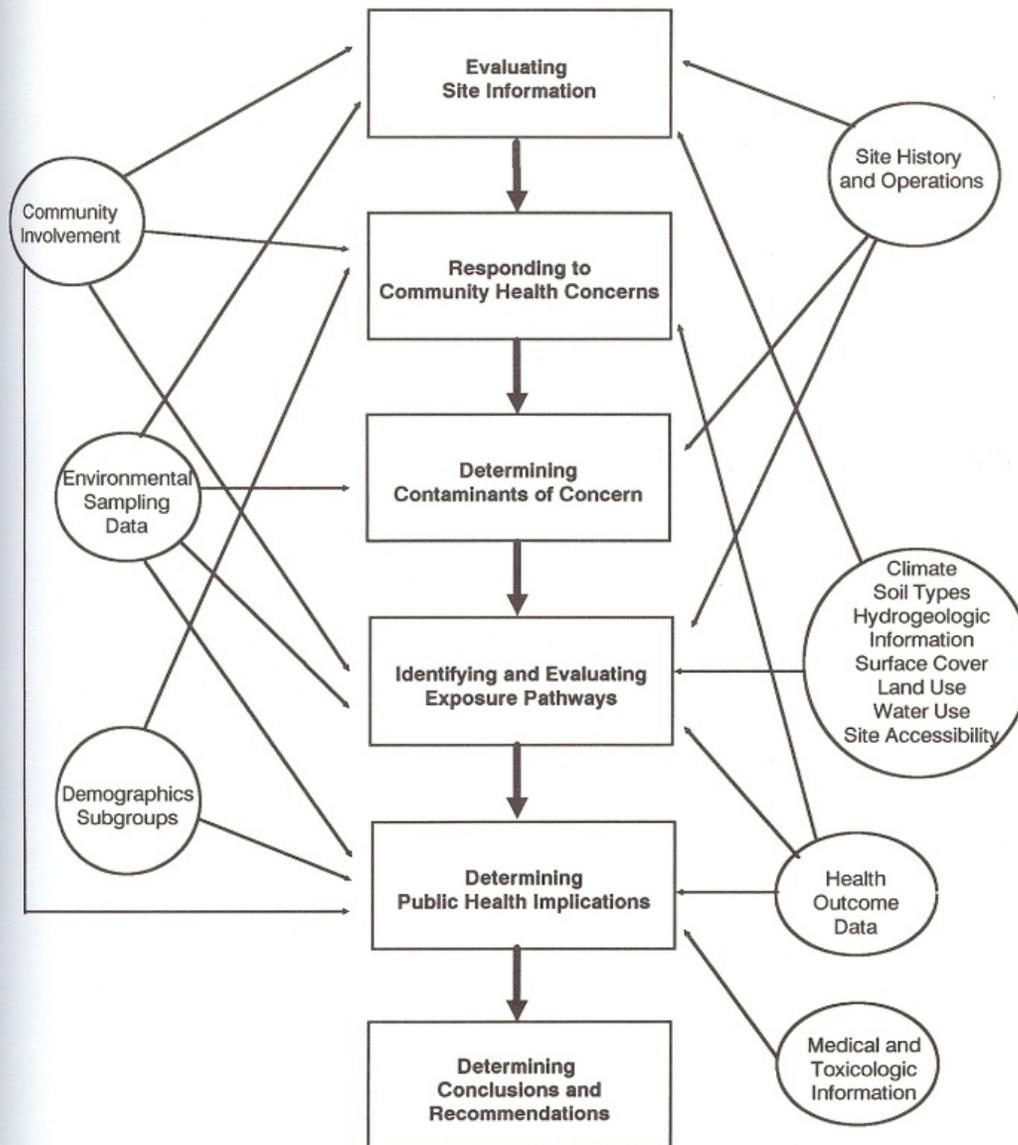
ATSDR's Mission and Role

- **ATSDR's mission is to serve the public by using the best science, taking responsive actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances exposure.**
- **ATSDR's mandate is to protect the public from hazardous wastes and environmental spills of hazardous substances. Mandated activities include health assessment activities, health surveillance, toxicological information, and health education.**

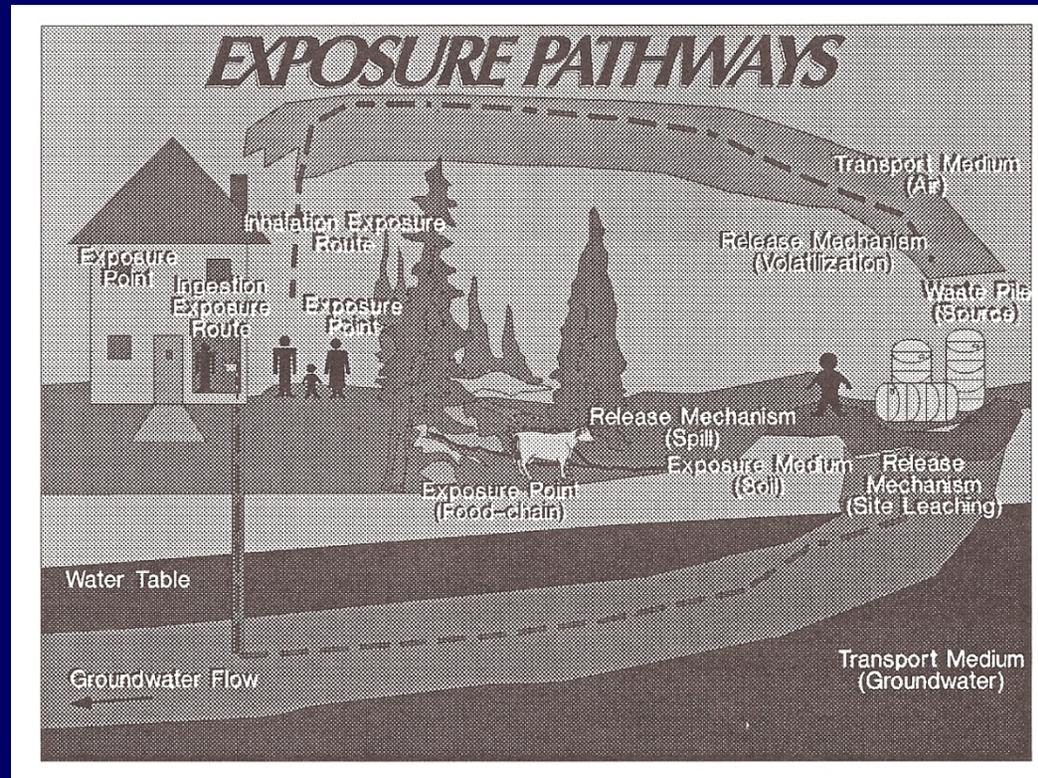


ATSDR's Evaluation of Site Data

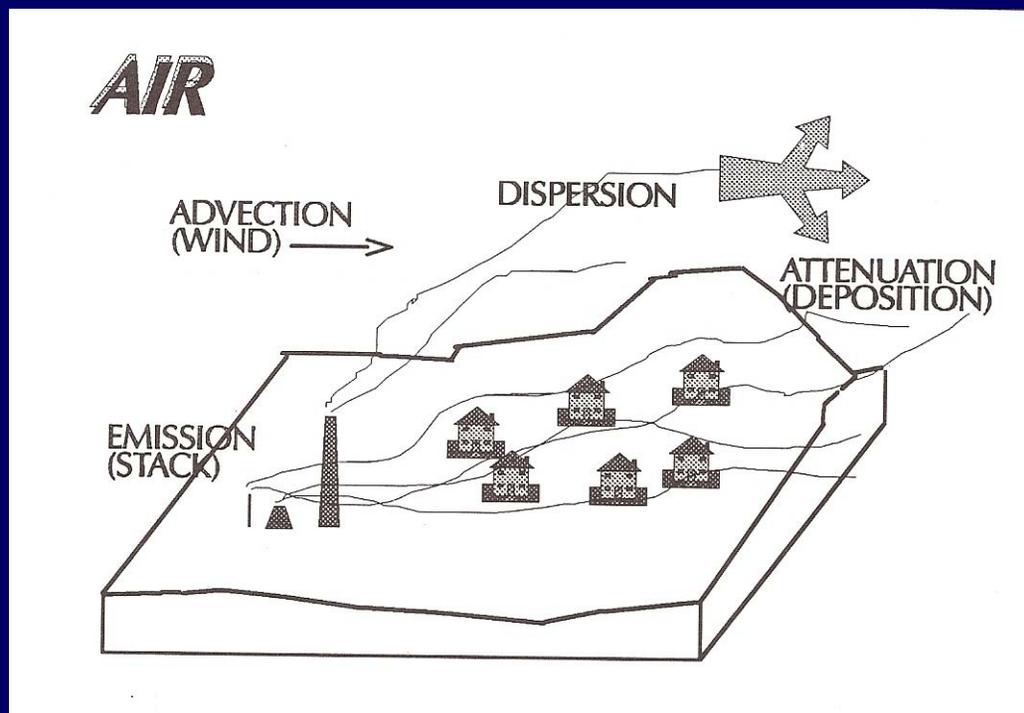
Figure 2.4. Factors Influencing the Health Assessment Process



ATSDR's Evaluation of Site Data



ATSDR's Evaluation of Site Data



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Midlothian, TX petition

Received August 2005

Issues/Concerns:

- **Emitted chemicals not fully characterized – all emissions are not identified**
- **Persistence of emissions, the effects of continuous low level exposure, and the synergistic effects of emitted chemicals**
- **Impact on pregnant women, infants, children, the elderly, the immuno-suppressed**
- **Protectiveness of the regulatory health-based screening guidelines**



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Petition Issues/Concerns continued

- Effectiveness of air monitoring from TCEQs monitoring stations (only run periodically)
- DSHS reliance on data collected by other agencies
- Rates of health problems, including leukemia, birth defects and childhood total cancer, are higher in Ellis Co. when compared to state-wide values
- Rates for birth defects, including hypospadias/epispadias and others, are higher in Ellis Co. when compared to state-wide values



Petition Issues/Concerns continued

- A study by DSHS of a Down Syndrome cluster in Ellis Co. was conducted but not designed to consider environmental factors
- A higher incidence of respiratory problems has been identified in Midlothian, as stated in a symptom survey conducted by Legator, et al. (1998)



Community concerns

(gathered from community surveys in 2005)

- Smell of rotten eggs around sunset
- Cars are dusty all the time – thick/white dust
- Respiratory infections
- Allergies
- Asthma – improves when leave area
- Sinus problems
- Cancer
- Auto-Immune diseases (sarcoidosis involving lungs and eye lids)
- Dogs with tumors and birth defects
- Air quality problems
- Graves Disease



ATSDR Involvement continued

- **March 2009 Congressional Hearing**
- **July 2009 Community Surveys**
- **Sept 2009 Community Assistance Panel**



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What are ATSDR's planned activities?

Public Health Response Plan

- Our plan for how ATSDR/DSHS will the respond to community concerns
- Plan can change as needed (living document)
- Keeps agencies accountable
- Allows community to know what steps agencies will take and where we are in the process



Current activities continued

Ongoing communication with community
(websites will be kept up-to-date)

- 1- www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/midlothian
- 2 - [www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/
midlothian/midlothian.shtml](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/midlothian/midlothian.shtml)



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PHRP Comment Period

- **60-day comment period**
Jan 21, 2010 – Mar 19, 2010
- **Copies available after meeting**
- **Reading copies at Midlothian City Hall and A.H. Meadows Library**
- **Available on websites**



Comments

Send to:

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Nancy Ingram

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Next meeting

Monday, February 22, 2010
Same Location



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Contacts

ATSDR

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DSHS

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