

Neighborhood Forum: Tidewater Site

Monday, March 19th, 6:30 – 8 pm

International Charter School (334 Pleasant St)

Did you know there are dangerous chemicals in the fenced area behind Taft & Tidewater St?

We need YOU to come learn what you can do to protect your health and your family!



Mercury spill

- * Contamination from 2004 mercury spill was big news
- * Whole apartment complex was evacuated and cleaned
- * The company (Southern Union) fined \$18 million!
- * But, appealing to Supreme Court to avoid paying a cent

Mercury is dangerous when touched or breathed, and can cause nervous system damage. Higher exposure can damage the kidneys, lead to respiratory failure or death

Toxic Sludge in tanks

- * 300 tons of toxic sludge was held in two tanks sitting next to elementary schools
- * tanks dismantled during school day by workmen wearing white suits and masks, while children played across the street
- * National Grid (site owner) didn't take full safety precautions: their own tests show high releases of dangerous air toxins like naphthalene (smells like moth balls...)

Exposure to naphthalene can cause anemia in children, confusion, nausea, vomiting and is known to cause cancer

National Grid site: PCB contamination

- * PCB = dangerous chemical that was banned in 1979
- * PCB exposure limit = 10 mg/kg...
PCB levels found on site: 3178 mg/kg

PCBs are linked to cancer, reproductive & developmental disorders. PCBs store in the body, are transferred from mother to child

Have concerns? Speak up!

It's up to us to make sure National Grid doesn't harm this neighborhood or put our families' health in danger

Questions? Want more information? Contact:

Dr. Holly Dygert, Rhode Island College ~ 456-8487 ~ hdygert@ric.edu
Environmental Justice League of RI ~ 383.7441 ~ info@ejlri.org