

TECHNICAL TERMS AND PROPOSED ALTERNATE TERMS TO USE WITH THE PUBLIC AND THE NEWS MEDIA

A

acute: sudden
adhere: stick
absorb: stick
agent: cause, chemical
ambient: surrounding
analysis: study, review
association: connection
audience: people (who care about or care to listen)
auspice: care
avail themselves to medical follow-up: come for treatment

B

background: normal, uncontaminated
biological pathway: chemicals travel through plants and animals
biota: plants and animals

C

carcinogen: something which can cause cancer
CERCLA: Superfund, an environmental law dealing with past operations
characterization: description
chronic: over a long period of time
cognizant of the fact: know, are aware of
cohort: group of people similar in some meaningful way
commercial cleanup: cleanup
community: group of people with common interests or living in same area
comparison purposes: to be used to compare
concept: idea
consensus: general agreement defined in advance as how it is reached
contaminant: polluting chemical, waste
contaminated: polluted, tainted
correlation: connection, relationship

D

data: information
decade: 10 years
decline: less (or fewer or smaller) than before
decontaminate: cleanup
dermal: skin
detectable: measurable by instrument or machine
determine: figure out
discharge: let out, leak out
documented: written about

E

effluent: (waste) material or liquid let out into the environment
emission: (waste) material let out into the air

employed: used
endpoint: destination (final) point of interest, effect
epidemiology: study of the distribution of disease in people
evaluation: review
evidence: proof
excess cancers: more cancers than you would expect to occur
exposure: contact

E

frequency: how often something happens
frequency of occurrence: number of times something happens

G

greater than expected: more than you thought based on the past

H

half life: time before half the amount of the substance disappears
hazard: danger
hazardous substance: dangerous chemical or poison
health outcome: sickness or injury, health effect
human(s): person, people
hydrocarbons: chemical made up of hydrogen & carbon (gas, coal)
hydrogeological: underground rock and water
hypothesis: idea to be tested

I

incidence: number of new cases of a disease
increased (incremental) risk: higher chance of danger than before
indicated: should be done or is needed
individual or individuals: person or people
ingest: eat or drink
ingestion: eating or drinking
inhalation: breathing in
intake: putting into the body

L

latency period: time when the effects are not yet showing
latency: not yet active
leachate: liquids passed through waste that have picked up chemicals
linkage: connection or relationship between
locality: place, nearby area
long-term: over a long period of time

M

maintain: keep
mechanism: process, setup
media: soil, air, or water
migrate: move
migration: movement
monitor: keep an eye on
multi-agency: including many agencies

N

neurological: of the nervous system
news media: newspapers, radio and television
noninvasive: by a method which doesn't go into your body

O

observed: seen
occupational: work (place)
occurrence: something happened
order of magnitude: ten times
organics: chemicals which come from living matter
outcome: result or effect

P

parameters: characteristics
pathway: the path by which a chemical travels
population: group of people
posed: is, was
potential: possible
primary contaminant of concern: chemical we are concerned about
prior to: before
probabilistic: most likely
proposal: suggestion
public health threat: dangerous to people's health
pulmonary: lung

Q

quantify: measure
quarterly: 4 times a year

R

RCRA: environmental law dealing with current operating facilities
receptor: people who contact the chemicals
reduce: lessen
reduce exposure: people contact less of the chemical
regulatory: related to or under the rules
regulator: people who enforce the rules
related to: connected to
release: let out
remedial: clean up
remediate: clean up
renal: kidney
repeated positives: tested again and was positive again
residence: home
respiratory: breathing or lungs
risk: chance
route: path
rural: country

S

sampling: take and test a small part of

screening regimen: plan for looking at

sediment: sand or soil underwater

sensitive sub-populations: people who may be most easily affected

short-term: short period of time

significant: meaningful / important

site: defined area / facility that is being studied

soil: dirt

solubility: ability to dissolve

subsurface: below the ground

Superfund: money Congress has given EPA to clean the environment

survey: measure

suspect: think it might

I

target area: area where it will happen

target organ: part of the body a chemical might injure

toxic: poisonous

toxicant: poison

transport: move

U

urban: city

user site: place where someone is using the chemical

V

value: amount

volatile: evaporates at a low temperature

END