

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

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DEP responds to environmental group's critique of C8 report

CHARLESTON- A report released today on the C8 issue in Wood County is welcomed input, state environmental officials say.

The Washington, D.C.-based Environmental Working Group released today a critique of the report developed by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection on ammonium perfluorooctanoate, or C8. The chemical is used by DuPont's Washington Works facility near Parkersburg.

DEP, with the assistance of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau of Public Health and a nationally recognized toxicology group, recently issued a report on the human health risk factors for oral and air exposure to C8. Using a process based upon a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency protocol, a team of toxicologists also determined a safe level for C8 in drinking and surface water.

"I'd like to thank the Environmental Working Group for their input on our report," said DEP Cabinet Secretary Michael O. Callaghan. "I challenged the public to look into our science and the group stepped up to the challenge. I believe that the more scientific analysis on a human health issue such as C8 we have, the better."

Callaghan said the DEP cut no corners in researching the health effects of C8.

"DEP had 10 toxicologists with over 200 years of combined experience analyzing the potential effects of C8 on Wood County residents," said Callaghan. DEP's own toxicologist has worked for over a year almost exclusively on the C8 issue. DEP is committed to protecting human health and safety, and this is no exception."

Although the toxicology team's report is complete, Callaghan says that he will charge them with addressing the scientific concerns that the Environmental Working Group has brought up in their critique.

"On a human health issue, DEP doesn't want to leave questions unanswered," said Callaghan.

The agency responded to the Environmental Working Group's critique by letter today.

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