

Bill Pfanner - Reply to letter from Ms. Chavez

From: "Dr. Alvin Greenberg"
To: "Bill Pfanner"
Date: 9/10/2007 3:26 PM
Subject: Reply to letter from Ms. Chavez
CC: "Matthew Layton"

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Bill,

This is my response to Ms. Chavez:

First, there will be **NO** hexavalent chromium used at this power plant, or any other power plant licensed by the Energy Commission.

Second, I want to assure Ms. Chavez that the minute amount of contaminants that would be emitted from the proposed Eastshore Energy Center would not result in birth defects, fetal toxicity (but note that not all environmental contaminants pass through the placenta) or maternal toxicity. The acceptable levels of exposure – termed RELs or Reference Exposure Levels – are determined by the California EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and are set to ensure that no adverse effects would occur to even the most sensitive members of the public.

The analysis for noncancer health effects compares the maximum project contaminant levels to these RELs. These are amounts of toxic substances to which even sensitive people can be exposed and suffer no adverse health effects (OEHHA 2003). These exposure levels are designed to protect the most sensitive individuals in the population, such as infants, the aged, and people suffering from illness or disease which makes them more sensitive to the effects of toxic substance exposure. The RELs are based on the most sensitive adverse health effect reported in the medical and toxicological literature, and include margins of safety. The margin of safety addresses uncertainties associated with inconclusive scientific and technical information available at the time of standard setting and is meant to provide a reasonable degree of protection against hazards that research has not yet identified. The margin of safety is designed to prevent pollution levels that have been demonstrated to be harmful, as well as to prevent lower pollutant levels that may pose an unacceptable risk of harm, even if the risk is not precisely identified as to nature or degree. Health protection is achieved if the estimated worst-case exposure is below the relevant reference exposure level. In such a case, an adequate margin of safety exists between the predicted exposure and the estimated threshold dose for toxicity.

I hope this helps Ms. Chavez better understand the assessment I conducted.

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From: Bill Pfanner [mailto:Bpfanner@energy.state.ca.us]
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2007 10:06 AM
To: agreenberg@risksci.com
Subject: Fwd: Russel City Energy Center & Eastshore Energy Center