

Dear Dr. Stephens:

We are a group of veterans who were stationed at some point in our military careers at the Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan. We have concerns about past exposures to chemical contamination in the water, soil, and air at the base, as well as direct exposures through handling various chemicals in our jobs there. We feel that many health effects we are experiencing now may be due to exposures at Wurtsmith and should be covered by Veterans Administration (VA) benefits.

Please consider our request to discuss with ATSDR the items listed below. We request a verbal (phone or in-person) discussion, with letter follow-up.

We request that ATSDR revisit their 2001 Public Health Assessment for the Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, Michigan. Specifically:

We ask that ATSDR conduct modeling of what exposure levels may have been to the historical contamination (TCE, PCE, vinyl chloride, BTEX, etc.) as well as the more recently discovered perfluorinated chemical (PFC/PFAS) contaminants. Updated modeling software and increased understanding of the fate and transport of environmental contaminants could help shed more light on what exposures may have been when the water system for the base was in use.

We ask that ATSDR review and, as needed, update their conclusions to the 2001 Public Health Assessment and their answers to the community health concerns section. This is especially necessary because the understanding of TCE's toxicity has increased since the 2001 report (concerns for heart malformation in the fetus after just a brief exposure to pregnant mothers).

We also request that ATSDR determine whether epidemiological studies on health effects possibly associated with past exposure to contamination at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base should be conducted. Specifically, with any health studies aimed at veterans who served at Wurtsmith:

How would vets be tested, since many are no longer residing in Michigan?

How would vets be notified of their individual testing results and results for the health study overall?

If high concentrations of known contaminants are found in vets' blood, what would be the next step?

Will testing results lead to any needed treatment for vets?

Will ATSDR work with the Veterans Administration and other agencies to ensure proper care for vets if contaminants are found?

Thank you for your attention to our concerns and considering our requests. We look forward to talking with you.

Cindi Ashbeck and Mike Bussey, co-administrators for the "Michigan Contaminated Water Group Affecting Veterans/Civilians Worldwide" Facebook group (see also our public website at [http://michigancontaminatedwater.com/...](http://michigancontaminatedwater.com/))