

Citizens' Testing Protocol, Part 1

Proposed specifications for sampling and analysis of dioxin-like compounds in and around East Palestine, Ohio. This is the first stage of sampling and analysis. Further stages must require ongoing monitoring of farm products, test wells, surface water and soil, and other methods of tracing the plume below the ground and at the surface.

1. Establishing conditions at the point source: combustion product analysis

- a. Sample of bulk soot from the ash pit where the dump and burn operation took place, excavated below the backfill. This should be full-spectrum testing for dioxins, furans and dioxin-like compounds, as well as source chemicals and other known combustion byproducts. There must be an analysis category for “unknown peaks.”
- b. Rooftop hexane wipe samples from structures in all directions for one mile analyses for dioxins, furans and other dioxin-like compounds. There must be an analysis category for “unknown peaks.”
- c. Bulk soot or hexane wipe samples of the interiors of several of the vehicles carrying vinyl chloride, and several carrying polyvinyl chloride. These will be analyzed for dioxins, furans and other dioxin-like compounds. There must be an analysis category for “unknown peaks.”

2. Determining the spread of the plumes

Once this “toxic fingerprint” is established, a sampling plan approved by citizens will be devised to determine the direction and extent of travel of the toxic plumes, including extensive, full-spectrum testing of farms and farm products, monitor wells and analysis of samples from rivers and streams.

The sampling area will spread outward until the toxic fingerprint of this incident is no longer found, with a 100 mile safety margin sampled and analyzed using the split-sample procedure described above.

3. Sampling procedure

- a. All locations will be sampled twice and analysis split between two labs working under separate contracts. Citizens shall approve the second lab and contract; all documents from any lab running the samples for dioxin and dioxin-like compounds must be disclosed to the public.
- b. Citizen witnesses will be present at the time all samples are taken. (This is likely to require people willing to suit up in Level A or Level B, essentially, Scuba-type gear, which will be provided at government expense.)
- c. The sampling process and chain of custody will be documented in video, and the samples accompanied to the point where they are surrendered to FedEx for safe shipment to the labs for analysis.
- d. Full results of levels of all dioxin-like compounds, and all other chemicals detected, for all samples, will be provided to the public.
- e. If there is an intermediary lab used for the purpose of extracting the samples for dioxin-like compounds, the name of that lab must be disclosed in all cases, and its documentation provided.

4. Background levels for comparison

Any comparison of current toxins levels to background levels will use only sampling prior to February 3, 2023 as background levels for comparison. Background studies conducted after February 3, 2023 are invalidated by any chemical release on or after that date.

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Prepared by Eric F. Coppolino
Executive Director, Chiron Return, Inc.

efc@chironreturn.org
(845) 337-5095 • (845) 481-5616