When Did You Know?
Community Leaders and Residents Demand Answers and Justice for Environmental Hazards that Have Created Cancer Clusters and Devastated Black Communities across Houston

Coronavirus Outbreak: Not a Time for Hysteria or Propaganda

By JEFFREY L. BONEY

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LARGEST BLACK OWNED INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER IN THE SOUTH
Continued from the Houston Health Department participated in an April community meeting with Impact, a community group in the Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens community. This was an opportunity for Mayor Turner to hear from residents directly and address their concerns about the wood treatment facility. In his January 15 letter to Dr. Hellerstedt, County Attorney Ryan explained that Harris County has been working on this issue for over 20 years. The facility was owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company which used chemicals, such as creosote, to treat utility poles.

The Houston Health Department has been investigating the health impacts of creosote contamination for several years. As of March 2020, they had been conducting cluster analysis that was being shared with the entire community. The goal is to determine if an epidemiological review of the associations between specific cancers and creosote contamination is warranted.

Mayor Turner explained that the Houston Health Department has made significant progress in the community's frustration and anxiety. He highlighted the importance of community engagement and the benefits of collaborating with local organizations. The meetings provided the opportunity to discuss the facility's history, the community’s concerns, and the steps being taken to address the contamination.

The Houston Health Department has been working with Impact and other community groups to address the contamination. The meetings were an opportunity to hear from residents and discuss the next steps. The Houston Health Department has been conducting air sampling and investigating the potential for ground-level emissions. They have also been working to improve communication with the community and ensure that residents are informed about the health risks.

The Houston Health Department is conducting an epidemiological review of the associations between specific cancers and creosote contamination. The review will be used to determine if an epidemiological review of the associations between specific cancers and creosote contamination is warranted.

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