



Sapphire News

Twenty-Five Years of Dioxin Cancer Risk Assessment.

Peter C. Wright, Thomas F. Long, Lesa L. Aylward. *Natural Resources and Environment*. Volume 19, Number 4, Spring 2005.

EXCERPT: “Over the last twenty-five years, dioxin has joined DDT, PCBs, lead and mercury as an iconic environmental chemical. Yet, there is meager evidence that exposure to dioxin at the trace levels encountered in the environment has caused any observable harm to the short- or long-term health of the human population. Dioxin is unique in many respects because it is highly toxic to a variety of animal species but not to humans. Indeed, as has been widely reported, an exceedingly high dose of dioxin was not fatal to the current president of the Ukraine. In terms of assessing regulatory risk, both sides of the dioxin debate have used the same scientific study to make their cases. It is instructive, therefore, to examine his study and its role for more than twenty-five years as the basis of numerous, sometimes contradictory, interpretations of dioxin’s hazard to human health.”

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