
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies



presents

Edward Emmett

Occupational and Environmental Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Mary Hufford

Center for Folklore & Ethnography
University of Pennsylvania

Environmental Justice: Community Exposure to C8

A community in South East Ohio has a history of exposure to perfluorooctanate (C8) in both water and air. C8 is used during the manufacture of Teflon. C8 is not broken down in the environment and is very persistent within the human body (half life~4 years). It is toxic and carcinogenic to rats in experimental studies, but through mechanisms that may not be operative in humans. C8 appears to have no known natural source, yet traces are being found in many human populations and in widely dispersed fauna. This epidemiologic study funded by an Environmental Justice Grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH), explores the levels and routes of absorption of C8 in the community population as well as whether there are changes in biomarkers for potential effects. The study takes place in the context of community concern, strong media interest, potential huge fines, a class action suit and a number of actions which may have eroded public trust. Drs. Emmett and Hufford will also describe interviews with community members to explore community dynamics and cultural issues connected with these exposures, as well as strategies to ensure that the study remains and is seen as objective and impartial.

Date: February 23, 2005
Time: NOON - 1:30 pm
Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium
On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building:
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 Street)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Direct questions to: 215-573-3164
ies_penn@sas.upenn.edu; <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/earth/ies>

NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM
