
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

Helen E. Sheehan

University of Pennsylvania



Chromium Hazards in New Jersey:
Community and State Interaction

From 1890 to the 1970s, three companies in Hudson County, New Jersey, processed chromate ore to produce chromium used in paint, stainless steel, chrome plating, photographic chemical and leather tanning. Beginning in the 1950s, these companies sold and gave away chromium wastes which were used for landfill in Jersey City and other county towns. As a result, Hudson County became the second largest site of chromium wastes in the world, second only to Tokyo. Beginning in the late 1970s, and continuing through the 1980s, discovery of these wastes took place in playgrounds, ballfields, public buildings, businesses, private homes, vacant lots, and manufacturing plants.

During the 1990s, remediation of sites and health surveillance of people identified as exposed to chromium wastes began. In 2004-05, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection initiated a new evaluation of chromium clean-up methods and, in conjunction with the NJ Department of Health, planned to begin a new study of health exposure and risks. This presentation will discuss the roles and viewpoints as well as the conflicts among state environmental and health agencies, local government, and community groups in addressing the chromium clean-up and hazards over a nearly 20-year period. The uncertainties surrounding the level of risk of chromium to community health and changing views on appropriate remediation methods interact with the struggles of working class neighborhoods to survive in the face of state and local government attention to nearby gentrifying neighborhoods.

Date: March 29, 2006

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Direct questions to: 215-573-3164

ies_penn@sas.upenn.edu

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/earth/ies>

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