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LATEST NEWS

Published at: 5 pm
Date: 21 February 2018

HEAVY METAL TEST RESULTS

Yesterday we received the results from our laboratory which conducted a range of tests on 4 dust samples looking for elements in the Portland cement and quicklime products produced or processed at CCL's Munster factory. Like the tests conducted for 8 other residents, the laboratory found that all 4 samples contained the same elements as these products. This finding suggests (after testing a dozen samples) that the 'dust' is probably one or both of these products.

This time we also tested for "serious" heavy metals which are known to cause ill health and disease if they are inhaled or ingested.

We tested for mercury, lead, arsenic and cadmium which we know are produced at the factory, mainly from burning coal.

The results are set out below:

Sample Numbers	Lead	Arsenic	Mercury	Cadmium
1. ≈ East of factory	52 mg/kg	16 mg/kg	0.34 mg/kg	6 mg/kg
2. North of factory	14 mg/kg	4.9 mg/kg	0.81 mg/kg	< 0.5 mg/kg
3. ENE of factory	26 mg/kg	12 mg/kg	< 0.2 mg/kg	< 0.5 mg/kg
4. NE of factory	190 mg/kg	10 mg/kg	< 0.2 mg/kg	<0.5 mg/kg

ENE = east north east; NE = north east; < 0.2/0.5 mg/kg = below test threshold

It is quite concerning that dust containing Portland cement and quicklime also contains particulates carrying these heavy metals.

The significance of these findings and their implications for the health of the community are yet to be assessed. We are seeking an independent toxicologist to provide advice as to whether or not the community should be concerned and whether immediate action is necessary to stop the emission of particulates containing these metals.

We will provide that advice when it is received.

The community needs more residents who have unusual 'dust' falling at their homes to get the dust tested for heavy metals so a more complete pattern of heavy metal contamination can be established. If you want to participate in these tests please email us.