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LATEST NEWS

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HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION PART II

The university environmental scientist also advised that in order to assess the actual risks of ill-health from inhaling or ingesting heavy metals there are two different kinds of tests available:

"The normal method to assess the risk is to measure concentrations of metals in air. A measured amount of air is drawn through a filter paper for a day or longer, and then the filter paper is chemically analysed for heavy metal concentrations. This has enabled air quality standards to be developed to protect human health. A different approach is to measure heavy metals in people, for example in blood or hair. Again, there are well-known concentrations at which the health risk becomes a concern."

One resident working near the factory had a hair sample tested in 2015 and the sample was found to contain arsenic, beryllium, mercury, cadmium, lead and aluminium with elevated levels of lead, aluminium and cadmium. When retested in 2016 after treatment, the aluminium level had increased to the maximum of the scale and the lead level had increased but the arsenic level had dropped and the other heavy metals were no longer detectable.

We believe there is a need for more tests to be carried out to see if the very high levels of cadmium and lead in two of the samples are "one-off" results or whether there is a pattern of heavy metal contamination in 'dust' falling on our homes.

At least another 4 residents need to submit dust samples for testing for heavy metals. Because of the additional tests required the cost is \$90.00 per sample (based on 4 samples). If you want 'dust' tested send us an email with your name and address so a dust sample kit can be delivered to you. Pre-payment is to our bank account; details on the DONATIONS page of our website.

We are now writing to the Minister for Health to request that he direct his Department to investigate this heavy metal contamination and to make arrangements for human testing.