



State of Utah

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December 5, 2018

Memorandum to the Record

RE: Assessment of risk for silicosis and lung cancer associated with residential exposure to respirable crystalline silica originating from the "Point of the Mountain" gravel quarry.

The Environmental Epidemiology Program (EEP) has been contacted by several interested stakeholders in the city of Lehi's decisions regarding gravel quarrying and surface contouring at the "Point of the Mountain." In response, the EEP has prepared the attached statement which documents the EEP's approach and thinking in assessing the perceived risks associated with the quarry.

The EEP cannot say that exposure to respirable crystalline silica is "safe." Indeed, long term high level exposures ($\geq 1,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3\text{-years}$) result in a risk about twice as high as the unexposed population, which increases as exposure concentrations increase.

The attached document presents (1) EEP's roles and capabilities, (2) EEP's approach to determining what constitutes a public health concern, (3) a very brief synopsis of some of the literature reviewed by the EEP staff, and (4) a preliminary assessment of projected exposure concentrations using an area-source dispersion model. These are followed by a brief assessment including responses to several critiques of the EEP and some recommendations.

One of EEP's roles is to provide consultation on public health concerns to government entities, health care professionals, policy makers, and the public. The EEP has provided this assessment of perceived risks associated with quarry operations near the Traverse Mountain residential area. However, this statement does not promote or authorize any particular decision or action, and should not be used as the sole authoritative basis for making a decision. We encourage policy makers to carefully consider input from all interested stakeholders.

Please contact Sam LeFevre at slefevre@utah.gov or (801) 538-6188 if you have questions regarding this statement.

CC: Heather Borski
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Mayor Mark Johnson, City of Lehi
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Sincerely,

Sam LeFevre
Environmental Epidemiology Program