

There is no evidence of exposure to harmful levels of contaminants at Somerville Schools

In July, 2007, an individual hired by the plaintiffs in lawsuits against BNSF and Koppers, Dr. Paul Rosenfeld, took dust samples from various buildings at the Somerville Elementary and High Schools. He sampled areas (an air duct and several attics) that children and students never come into contact with. In spite of the limitations to the use of attic dust samples, examining the results of samples of this dust from Somerville schools demonstrates there is not a contamination problem in these buildings. The results of the Somerville Schools' attic dust or "inaccessible" dust sampling can be compared to a study published in April, 2007 by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). In this investigation, health agencies in West Virginia working in consultation with the ATSDR sampled dusts from the Nitro, West Virginia Elementary School, High School, and Community Center from areas that were more accessible to students and teachers than attics, and then performed a health risk assessment with the results. After reviewing the results of the interior dust samples collected in Nitro, WV, the ATSDR concluded the following:

*"Evaluation of the site-specific exposures and potential human health effects indicate that incidental ingestion of indoor dust poses no apparent public health hazard. No adverse noncarcinogenic effects are likely, and the excess cancer risk is less than 1 in 10,000, which is considered a low risk."*¹

Interestingly, the dioxin levels measured in the dusts from the West Virginia buildings were higher than the attic dust samples collected in Somerville by Dr. Rosenfeld (Figure 1). Thus, the ATSDR has recently concluded that schools with higher concentrations of dioxins than have been found in Somerville pose "no apparent public health hazard." It is also interesting to note that the attic dust in the Somerville schools (where children are unlikely to come into contact with the dust) contains less dioxin than the State of Texas allows in residential yard soils that can be contacted daily by children and adults (Figure 2).

¹ This report can be found by clicking [here](#).

Figure 1
Range of Dioxin in Interior Dust from Nitro Schools Compared to Attic Dust from Somerville Schools

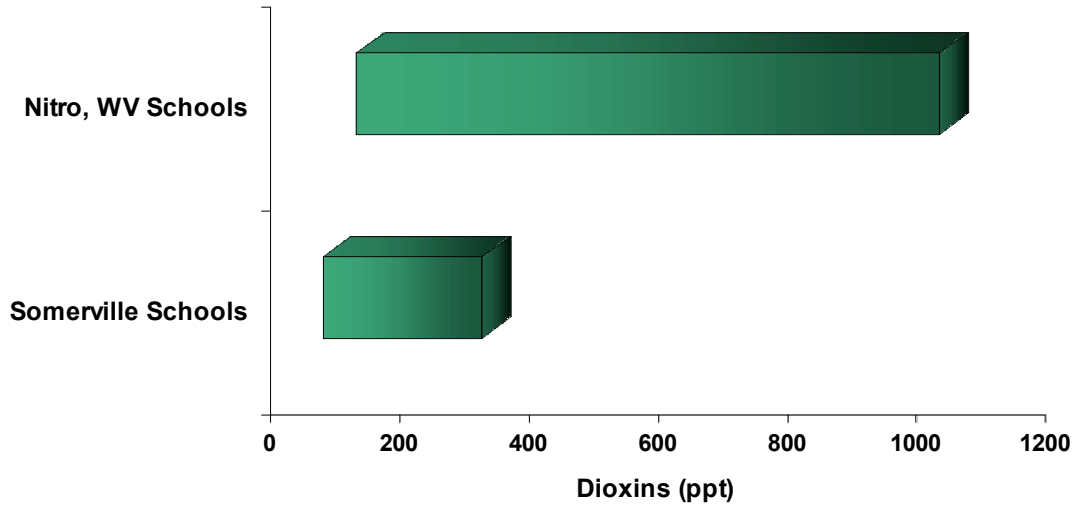


Figure 2
Range of Dioxin in Somerville School Attic Dust Compared to Texas PCL for Soil

