

**Announcing** . . .

**Center  
for  
Health Effects  
of  
Environmental  
Contamination**

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# Center for Health Effects of Environmental C

H.F. 631 specifically states that the State Board of Regents shall establish and maintain a **Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination** at the University of Iowa, whose purpose shall be the determination of the levels of environmental contamination which can be specifically associated with human health effects. Activities of the Center will encompass a wide variety of research involving exposure and risk assessments. Within the sphere of this research, the Center may ...

- ✓ Assemble all pertinent laboratory data on the presence and concentration of contaminants in the soil, air, water, and food, and develop a data retrieval system to allow the findings to be easily correlated with existing health outcomes.
- ✓ Make use of data from the existing cancer and birth defect statewide recording systems and develop similar recording systems for specific organ diseases which are suspected to be caused by exposure to environmental toxins.
- ✓ Develop registries of persons known to be exposed to environmental hazards so that the health status of these persons may be examined over time.
- ✓ Develop highly sensitive biomedical assays which may be used in exposed persons to determine early evidence of adverse health effects.
- ✓ Perform epidemiologic studies to relate occurrence of a disease to contaminant exposure and to ensure that other factors known to cause the disease in question can be ruled out.

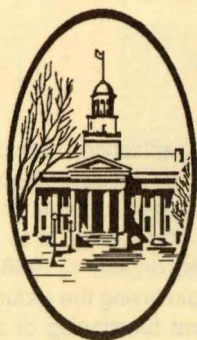
# Contamination

- ✓ Foster relationships and ensure the exchange of information with other teaching institutions or laboratories in the state which are concerned with the many forms of environmental contamination.
- ✓ Implement programs of professional education and training of medical students, physicians, nurses, scientists, and technicians in the causes and prevention of environmentally-induced disease.
- ✓ Implement public education programs to inform persons of research results and the significance of studies.

## ***What is Iowa's Groundwater Protection Act?***

### ***House File 631***

*"An Act relating to public health and safety by establishing measures to improve and protect groundwater quality and to manage substances which pose health and safety hazards, by establishing goals, policies, funding mechanisms, including taxes and fees, and administrative provisions for the measures, by establishing programs relating to the management of agricultural activities, solid waste disposal, household hazardous wastes, storage tanks, fertilizers, pesticides, landfills, and watersheds, by providing penalties, establishing effective dates, making appropriations, and by providing for other properly related matters."*



*The Center  
will be a  
multidisciplinary  
University  
effort  
involving . . .*

- \* College of Medicine
  - Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health
  - Department of Pediatrics
  - Institute of Agricultural Medicine
  - Appropriate clinical and basic science departments
- \* University Hygienic Laboratory
- \* College of Engineering
  - Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- \* Iowa Cancer Center
- \* College of Law
- \* Graduate College
  - Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning

*The following state agencies will  
also be involved in the activities  
of the Center . . .*

- \* Department of Public Health
- \* Department of Natural Resources
- \* Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

In addition the Center shall seek and encourage the active participation of the National Cancer Institute, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registries, the national Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Geologic Survey.

# *Getting the Center Started . . .*

A detailed plan describing the organization, research objectives, and budget projections for anticipated functions of the Center must be presented to the state legislature on January 15, 1988. The Center is to be established at the University of Iowa on July 1, 1988. A committee has been formed to begin laying the groundwork which will ensure the efficient functioning of the Center in the future. This committee consists of the following persons from the University community:

- Dr. Keith Cherryholmes, University Hygienic Laboratory
- Dr. Cheryl Contant, Urban and Regional Planning
- Dr. Burton Kross, Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health
- Dr. George Hallberg, Iowa Geologic Survey Bureau
- Dr. James Hanson, Pediatrics
- Dr. William Hausler, University Hygienic Laboratory
- Dr. Charles Helms, Medicine Administration
- Dr. Peter Isacson, Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health
- Dr. Charles Lynch, Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health
- Dr. James Merchant, Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health
- Dr. Gene Parkin, Environmental Engineering
- Dr. Jerald Schnoor, Environmental Engineering
- Dr. Derek Willard, Sponsored Programs



Public concern regarding contamination of groundwater by toxic substances has risen dramatically over the last decade. In Iowa, the presence of agricultural and industrial contaminants in the groundwater has been described in a number of studies sanctioned by the state legislature.

In January 1987 a report was presented to the legislature detailing groundwater conditions in Iowa and recommendations on strategies for groundwater protection. These recommendations resulted from analyses of the research, input from public meetings on groundwater quality and contamination, an advisory committee review process, and final review by the Environmental Protection Commission of the Department of Natural Resources. This "Iowa Groundwater Protection Strategy" contained legislative proposals which were included in the resulting legislative plan. After much debate and compromise, the Groundwater Protection Act, the most comprehensive groundwater legislation in the US, was passed and signed in June by Governor Branstad.

For further information about the **Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination**, contact: Peter Weyer, Center Planner, 5118 Westlawn, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA (319) 335-7497.