

Hello,

My name is Jen Peppe Hahn and I grew up in close proximity to Fort Detrick. My elementary school was across the road from Fort Detrick's Area B. I grew up in the 70's playing in the nearby seeps and springs. Ft Detrick suspected that contamination from their unlined landfills had traveled off site and into the groundwater and in the 90's some of those springs were tested for contamination. They found thousands of parts per billion of TCE, a known carcinogen. When I was 12, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease.

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0304606>

Years later while I was undergoing my second cancer diagnosis, a friend told me that the health department and Fort Detrick were holding a public meeting in town. Area B Groundwater had been put on the National Priorities List as a Superfund Site the year before and members of the community wanted a cancer cluster investigation. I asked my then 400 and some friends on FaceBook, "who went to my elementary school during a five year period in the 70's had cancer before they were 25, or knew a peer that had died young from cancer." I had 24 responses in two days.

I joined the technical advisory committee at the health department and we brainstormed on how to do a relevant cancer cluster study. Sadly, most cancer clusters are never proven. You not only need how many were sick, but also a denominator, ie out of how many were exposed. There was no easy way to obtain this and then turn it into a cohort study.

The Maryland State Health department did end up doing a study using a data-set from a specific number of years for which they had official cancer incidence data set. Environmental cancers can take years to manifest. The exposures of my elementary school peers would have occurred in the 70's, and the cancers of my classmates in the 80's and early 90's. The data Maryland used was from the 2000's because that is all they had officially collected in a data base because Maryland is not a part of the SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Result Registry) and Maryland's Cancer Registry was not adopted until years after all the exposures. Bottom line is to examine exposure to incident, they did not have the appropriate data to look at the relevant window.

The outlier cluster from my elementary school was not proven or disproven.

Not enough data, does not mean there was no issue. (If you would like to see more about the cancer cluster investigation surrounding the Fort Detrick contamination, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health did a video series which you can view here if interested:

<http://www.jhsph.edu/cancerclusterinvestigations>

The first page has: An Inside Look at a Potential Cancer Cluster: Community Impacts and Challenges for Public Health Investigators. A link to "interviews" can be found under that title and will take you to you tube.)

I decided instead of spending decades to prove a cluster, my efforts would be better spent trying to help this not happen to anyone else ever again by bringing an awareness to the known

contamination left in the unlined landfills and seeping into our groundwater from Fort Detrick's Area B. This is what has brought me to you today.

The contamination has not respected the Ft Detrick fence line. TCE and PCE are known carcinogens. Drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCL) of TCE and PCE are 5 parts per billion (ppb). The Army found levels of TCE along their fence line at 15,000ppb. One foot on the other side of this fence is owned by a developer with approved plans to build townhomes, with no clear effective disclosure protocol written into law for this magnitude and quality of contamination.

This area is now all on city water as opposed to well water so no one is drinking or bathing in it anymore, however, TCE and PCE are volatile organic compounds which cause vapor intrusion risks to these homes.

The EPA rule of thumb is that any TCE or PCE above 5ppb within 100 feet in any direction of a structure poses a potential risk. The EPA uses what they call a VISL (Vapor Intrusion Screening Calculator) as a guide. According to the EPA, "this tool provides screening level concentrations for groundwater, soil gas, ...near source to assist Agency staff with making vapor intrusion screening levels based on initial data." The only certain way to know if it is a risk is to test the structure.

**What we do know** right this moment is that Frederick City Planning Department gave Master Plan Approval for townhomes to be built where we now know the VISL data shows indisputable, clear, vapor intrusion potential. This means TCE has the potential to come into these homes through foundations and directly effect the health of the occupants.

**What we don't know is how this information is legally mandated to be disclosed and explained coherently to potential current and future homebuyers.**

The Maryland Real Estate 10-702 Disclosure and Disclaimer form exempts first time home purchases. The Army is still in a remedial investigation phase and has not submitted an official final report. The Frederick City and County disclosure forms list other overlay districts to be aware of during the purchasing process, but Frederick City has not completed an overlay district for the Superfund plume locations.

There needs to be universal protocol in Maryland that alerts potential buyers of proximity to Superfund sites and related contamination so that they can make informed decisions pertaining to risk before purchasing land or homes that pose an exposure risk to their family.

The aforementioned townhomes will be built with vapor intrusion barriers, paid for by the Army. Even so, laws need to be written requiring **INFORMED CONSENT** from the realtors to the buyer so that they enter into the transaction with a clear understanding of the **material facts** necessary to complete their due diligence.

**This bill guarantees this right by law.**

