



Toxicity tests of a 4 year old Boy in the Tara Gasfield

Caroline Reid <carolinereid94@yahoo.com.au>

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Reply-To: Caroline Reid <carolinereid94@yahoo.com.au>

To: "nswchiefscientist@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au" <nswchiefscientist@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Chief Scientist

I write to provide you with a toxicity tests from a four year old child currently living in the QLD Gasfield near Kogan. These have been provided to me by the residents.

The purpose of providing these to you is to inform your thinking on the development of the AGL Gloucester Project, where 50 families live within 2km of the proposed facility.

The child has excessive hippuric acid in his urine, indicative of toluene exposure. He does not sniff glue nor eat large volumes of fruit and vegetables. His result is approaching the BEI for an adult male worker. He is at least 1/4 the body weight of an adult male. This urine test was collected from the child 7 hours removed from exposure and after he first released his urine without successful sampling and then had to be given volumes of water to get to the point of being able to provide another sample. In these circumstances his normal 24/7 body load of toluene would be far higher.

The child is suffering serious symptoms of central nervous system toxicity, reported on page 19 here: <http://www.ntn.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Symptomatology-of-a-gas-field-An-independent-health-survey-in-the-Tara-rural-residential-estates-and-environs-April-2013.pdf>. The child lives adjacent (within 2km) of a gas compressor station, wells and other gas production facilities.

No action has been taken by the QLD Health Department to follow up this test. Almost a year since this test was done, the child remains living in the gasfield, the parents unable to move the family unless they are bought out by QGC. I consider this situation to be highly unsatisfactory, in fact possibly criminal on a number of grounds.

This child has other family members who are also sick as detailed in Dr McCarron's report.

No toxicological or health assessment program has been established for these families and no action has been taken to remove them from exposure.

The likely culprit for the petrochemical exposure is gas condensate, which is a byproduct of gas production and very likely the result of exceedingly poor engineering controls. What are the workers themselves exposed to? A safety data sheet for natural gas concentrate is attached.

These residents are exposed 24/7 to gasfield air pollutants. other families also have had toxicology done. One adult male had an excess of methylethyl ketone in his urine.

The air pollution from just a single facility (and there are over 200) in the gasfield is here: <http://www.npi.gov.au/npidata/action/load/emission-by-substance-result/criteria/substance-name/All/facility/Kenya/destination/ALL/source-type/INDUSTRY/subthreshold-data/Yes/state/QLD/year/2012>

Huge quantities of volatile organic chemicals have been emitted in one year.

Should you require to be put in direct contact with this family, please let me know and I will arrange.

Caroline Tulip BScMSc
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2 attachments

 **urine, hippuric acid,jackson001 (1).pdf**
108K

 **Natural gas condensate (sweet- no H2S) safety data sheet.pdf**
150K