

DIRECTOR'S JOURNAL ENTRY


RECISSION OF CONTACT ADVISORY FOR THE BLACK RIVER

On August 8, 1983, David L. Jackson, Director of the Ohio Department of Health issued an advisory for "a five-mile long section of the Black River in Lorain, Lorain County, Ohio, between the river's mouth and the E. 31st Street Bridge". The advisory stated that **"fish caught in that part of the river have been found with liver and lip cancers. Wading, swimming, and water skiing should not be done in that part of the river"**. Notice of this advisory was posted along the impacted stretch of the Black River and issued as a news release. This "contact advisory" has remained in effect since 1983 and has been published in the state's annual sport fish consumption advisory since 1992.

Due to remedial actions on the subject river in the 1990s and subsequent retesting of both river sediments and fish populations, a reassessment of the contact advisory was conducted by Mr. John Ion, an Ohio State University graduate student, in conjunction with officials of the Health Assessment Section of the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau of Environmental Health. Mr. Ion recently completed this reassessment and has concluded that the rationale for the 1983 ODH contact advisory no longer has validity, calculated risk estimates for worst case exposures to river sediments are within acceptable US EPA and Ohio EPA risk ranges, and that because of those findings it is recommended that the contact advisory be lifted. Mr. Ion's report has been reviewed by officials from the Ohio EPA, Ohio State University, and ODH and those individuals support Mr. Ion's recommendation that the contact advisory be lifted.

Therefore, based on my review and the recommendations presented to me I determine that the contact advisory previously issued for the Black River at Lorain is hereby rescinded.

4/14/04
Date


J. Nick Baird, M.D.
Director of Health