



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

April 17, 2003

Ms. Toby Hammett Futrell
City Manager
City of Austin
124 S. Eighth Street, Suite 101
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Futrell:

We have reviewed the Health Consultation prepared by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for the Barton Springs Pool in Austin, Texas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concurs with the overall conclusion of the TDH and the ATSDR that swimming and playing in the Barton Springs Pool do not pose an apparent public health hazard.

We also agree with the specific conclusions and public health action recommendations outlined in the consultation, including:

Conclusions

1. The information reviewed does not indicate that people who swim in the Barton Springs Pool would be exposed to levels of contaminants that would be expected to cause adverse effects.
2. Adverse health outcomes from exposure to soil near the creosote-treated posts used for erosion control near the shallow end of the pool are not likely.
3. The levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons detected in both the water and sediment in the pool are not expected to result in adverse health outcomes.

Public Health Action Recommendations

1. Provide public health education to address any concerns that the public may have concerning the risk associated with swimming in the pool.
2. Investigate the potential for the creosote-treated posts near the shallow end of the pool to serve as a source of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons in soil.
3. Continue to monitor the pool for total petroleum hydrocarbons.