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EMC reduces cancer risk



At the April 18 meeting of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), the group passed a rule that would reduce the risk of cancer from carcinogens in Alabama's waters to 1 in a million.

Previously, the standard was 1 in 100,000, putting Alabama in the vast minority of states with the highest permissible cancer risk as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The change in cancer risk stemmed from a request David Ludder made on behalf of Conservation Alabama and 17 other groups in 2007. After originally denying the request, the EMC took the issue back up at their December meeting.

The change will mean that less concentrations of 57 cancer-causing chemicals will be allowed to be pumped into our river and streams. It is a huge victory for public health in Alabama.

In other news from the meeting, the EMC also adopted the relative source contribution measure which would effectively reduce pollution in our waters by factoring in the total exposure to pollutants in the air and water.

The EMC also agreed, on a trial basis, to move two of their bi-monthly meetings to areas outside of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management headquarters in Montgomery. The ADEM Reform Coalition made this action one of its recommendation for change at the agency in its 2003 Blueprint for ADEM Reform.

- ◆ [Less cancer is better - Birmingham News 4/23/08](#) An Alabama environmental board passed new rules that should lower Alabamians' exposure to cancer-causing pollution.
- ◆ [At last, progress on environment - Montgomery Advertiser 4/24/08](#) Alabamians interested in protecting the environment and reducing cancer risks -- and that should be all Alabamians -- should applaud both of these significant, albeit overdue, changes.
- ◆ [Lowering cancer risk in water a good move - Daily Home 4/24/08](#) Members did exactly that with their vote, and we commend them for lowering the risk of cancer and protecting the people with this decision. It may not have been the easiest path for them to take with some manufacturers applying pressure against the move,