

Endocrine disruptors in the wind: how persistent organic pollutants travel across California

Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 7-8 PM, doors open at 6:30 PM
Page Center at SNARL, 1016 Mt Morrison Rd, Mammoth Lakes, CA

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Abstract: Public awareness of endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) came into focus in the late 1990's when bisphenol-A (BPA) was identified as an estrogen mimic, but EDCs have been around long before then. Nonylphenol polyethoxylates (NPEs) are still used in many industrial processes, personal care products and in pesticides as a surfactant, an additive that makes products adhere uniformly to surfaces. Once NPEs enter the environment, they degrade into 4-nonylphenol, a powerful estrogen mimic which has been linked to mortality in lower organisms and hormone related cancers in humans. The Eastern Sierra Nevada seems an unlikely place to find this compound; however, concentrations of 4-nonylphenol have been found at bioactive concentrations in lakes, and at several times that in the snow pack. It has been shown that wind-borne particulates are a mechanism of transport for this compound, suggesting that soil erosion in the Central Valley may play a critical role as a source. Currently, the EPA prohibits manufacture of new products that use 4-nonylphenol as the surfactant. Yet existing formulas containing 4-nonylphenol are still used in abundance. The primary goal of this research is to provide data on the far-reaching distribution of this EDC in the environment so that further restrictions can be implemented.

Please arrive early to park, secure a seat, snack and mingle. Seminars are geared to adult audiences, however young people are encouraged to attend and well-behaved children are welcome. Visitors are not allowed to bring dogs to SNARL, so please leave pets at home. This week's seminar sponsored by Stellar Brew in Mammoth Lakes.

