LEAD SCAVENGERS TEAM

MISSION STATEMENT

Ethylene dibromide (EDB) and 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA)—referred to as "lead scavengers"—were additives of leaded gasoline until the late 1980s when leaded gasoline was phased out. Both EDB and 1,2-DCA have had other uses as well; EDB was widely used as an agricultural fumigant until it was banned in 1983 and 1,2-DCA is still used as an industrial solvent. Both of these lead scavengers have federal Maximum Concentration Limits (MCLs) in drinking water; for EDB the MCL is 0.05 parts per billion (ppb), and for 1,2-DCA it is 5.0 ppb.

Even though these compounds have not been used as gasoline additives for over a decade, a recent study has indicated the possibility that these compounds may persist in the environment and affect drinking water supplies. Since these compounds have had other uses, especially EDB as a soil fumigant, the source of lead scavengers in the environment is unclear.

In order for EPA to determine what problems, if any, these lead scavengers pose to public health and the environment, we have formed a team with ASTSWMO to:

1. **Develop an understanding of the potential problem as it exists today** by:

    a. Compiling existing background information: toxicological data; historical usage information; and occurrence in drinking water supplies;
    b. Evaluating selected state databases and case files for information on sampling, monitoring and remediation at LUST sites;
    c. Conducting a study on the effectiveness and cost of treatment and remediation technology.

2. **Assess whether or not there are any gaps in our current knowledge,** based on the results of Phase 1**.** If so, develop and implement appropriate measures to fill the gaps.

3. **Identify next steps by**

    a. Evaluating the results of Phases 1 and 2.