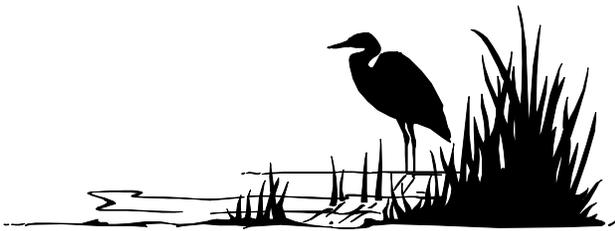


# Louisiana Environmental Health Association, Inc.



## LEHA Perspectives

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*December, 1999*

*Linda Gipson &  
Marian Aguiard, Editors*

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# LEHA

WISHES

EVERYONE

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

*NEW Website :* <http://www.leha.net/index.html>.

## RESOLUTIONS

In September and November, the board voted to accept for presentation to the membership four resolutions voted for support by NEHA. They are included in this newsletter. Please read them carefully and be prepared to vote on their acceptance by the Association at the general meeting held after the conference.

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### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**PURPOSE:** Since cigarettes and spit tobacco currently have hazard warnings on packaging, it would be appropriate for cigars to carry such a label.

**TITLE:** FTC WARNINGS FOR CIGARS

**WHEREAS,** while cigarette smoking has declined since 1993, the number of cigar smokers has increase 50 percent, and

**WHEREAS,** this matter has been studied by the HHS Office of the Inspector General, and CDCJ Office on Smoking and Health, and

**WHEREAS,** one of the studies involving 18 focus groups of teens reported more than 1/3 of the teenagers had smoked a cigar in the past 30 days, and

**WHEREAS,** U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher has supported this initiative,

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT *THE LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION* HEREBY **recommend that the Federal Trade Commission require the cigar manufactures to put a Surgeon General warning label on their products.**

**DONE AND DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

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Sharon G. Parker  
President, Louisiana Environmental Health Association

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Michael Vince  
President-Elect, Louisiana Environmental Health Association

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**PURPOSE: Prevent Children Worldwide from Tobacco Products**

**TITLE: SUPPORTING A GLOBAL APPROACH TO YOUTH TOBACCO USE**

**WHEREAS**, by 2030 worldwide deaths from tobacco use are expected to surpass 10 million a year (more than triple), and

**WHEREAS**, this level will surpass the total of deaths from tuberculosis, malaria, and maternal/childhood conditions combined, and

**WHEREAS**, smoking will cause 1 out of 3 adult deaths in 2020, up from 1 in 6 (1990) in developing countries, and

**WHEREAS**, *Louisiana Environmental Health Association* is concerned with the health of our communities, our Nation, and the world, and

**WHEREAS**, a global approach to tobacco prevention was identified during the first International Policy Conference on Children and Tobacco, recently held in Washington, DC.

**NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT *THE LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION* HEREBY endorse a global strategy against tobacco use by youth.**

**DONE AND DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

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Sharon G. Parker  
President, Louisiana Environmental Health Association

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Michael Vince  
President-Elect, Louisiana Environmental Health Association

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE FOR  
BROWNFIELDS POLICIES AND PRACTICES

**WHEREAS, communities across the country, with the support of all levels of government, are moving rapidly to redevelop abandoned or underused properties (brownfields), which may be contaminated by toxic substances; and**

**WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has identified at least 450,000 such sites nationally; and**

**WHEREAS, federal and state laws in many jurisdictions are reducing standards and liability for cleanup and otherwise speeding up the development process; and**

**WHEREAS, there is risk that due diligence is not being given to assuring that health risks are being addressed as part of the development process.**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that *Louisiana Environmental Health Association* will seek to disseminate these principles and guidance as widely as possible and advocate their application to local, state, and federal policies.

**DONE AND DATED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

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Sharon G. Parker  
President, Louisiana Environmental Health Association

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Michael Vince  
President-Elect, Louisiana Environmental Health Association

## Informational Fact Sheet

### **PUBLIC HEALTH PRINCIPLES AND GUIDANCE FOR BROWNFIELDS POLICIES AND PRACTICES<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Louisiana Association of Parish and City Officials, September 1998**

In those communities with brownfields properties, where the health of the public is an issue, LEHA seeks to provide guidance to local health officials and other agencies with the responsibility to protect public health. The purpose of this guidance is to define an optimal response in linking public health to economic redevelopment, for those local health departments with the capacities to meet the guidance. This guidance stresses the importance of working closely with the community and values an expanded role for public health in economic redevelopment processes. While not all health agencies may have the authority and resources they need to play a comprehensive role in community revitalization activities, the expanding number of brownfields properties and efforts to speed-up the development process in many jurisdictions require an enhanced vigilance to health consequences. Given the potential health consequences of brownfields, all local health departments are encouraged to address as many of these guidelines as possible.

### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

“When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context, the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof.....The process of applying [this principle] must be open, informed and democratic and must include potentially affected parties. It must involve an examination of the full range of alternatives, including no action.” *(Based on the Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle, developed January 23-25, 1998, Racine, Wisconsin)*

- The health of the public is intimately linked to economic prosperity and that economic development is vital to creating healthy and sustainable communities
- Economic redevelopment potentially affects public health--positively and negatively.
- The health of the community and the environment must be protected by ensuring that development poses no known significant health threats in the clean-up process or future use
- The potential exposure to hazardous substances must be investigated

#### **Role of Public Health Authorities in Site Activities and Decision-making**

- Seek to ratify the readiness of the property for redevelopment, drawing on the local health agency expertise when present, or seeking state/federal advice as appropriate
- Ensure an audit of the site and assess health concerns, with active participation from the community
- Develop a permanent process for integrating the work of public health from start to finish, into

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<sup>1</sup> Brownfields is the term used to describe properties that have been abandoned or underused which may be contaminated by toxic substances.

zoning, land use and other activities related to redevelopment.

- Strongly encourage partnerships between EPA and local health agencies to institutionalize a public health role in assessing the brownfields property
- Determine the baseline health of the local community potentially affected by the proposed site

### **Full Collaboration and Participation in Brownfields Process by affected Community Residents**

- Health and planning officials should ensure affected community residents early, sustained, and effective participation in all stages of brownfields decision-making and that mechanisms are available to make this possible.
- Developers and redevelopment authorities must assure adequate public notice on the proposed cleanup plan and/or request a public meeting
- Health and planning officials should support strong community collaboration practices, beyond those required by EPA; the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) community collaboration principles - written by community representatives - should be used as one possible example<sup>2</sup>.

### **Community Knowledge, Training and Assistance**

Communities with local health agency leadership should:

- Build the capacity of the community to participate by providing technical assistance, training, advisory groups and other support to insure effective participation
- Provide equal protection to all residents with respect to enforcement of all health and environmental laws and standards, and work to ensure the adequacy of those laws
- Expand and protect the public's right to know about contamination; strengthen right-to-know, enforcement, and compliance activity in affected communities
- Provide answers to the community's questions about public health concerns
- Foster the development of community's questions about public health concerns
- Foster the development of community leaders - capacity building for the community
- Provide the public with access to any studies or reports completed for the redevelopment project
- Post signs at site in question with information on the proposed plan
- Interpret results of environmental impact assessments for communities (i.e., present scientific data)
- Work with communities to evaluate the health risks of redevelopment to the community
- Keep communities abreast of the results of environmental exposure assessments, as well as public health activities needed based on those assessments; receive more information on thresholds for public health effects
- Engage in outreach efforts to existing networks and to groups that ordinarily don't participate

### **Standards for Sustainable Communities**

- Ensure that the contamination is cleaned to appropriate health and environmental standards and does not threaten public health
- Ensure that laws cannot be weakened due primarily to the cost of the clean-up
- Ensure that future use of the property does not include activity that will lead to new health problems
- Ensure that properties designated for residential use or schools, as compared with industrial uses, require the strictest standards
- Ensure that clean-up standards and programs are not weakened
- Ensure that residents are fully involved in planning and implementation of relocation plans, whenever relocation is required, as well as a plan to insure their well-being in any relocation

- Ensure that brownfields reuse is compatible with local land use and community perspectives

### **Monitoring, Surveillance, and Diagnosis**

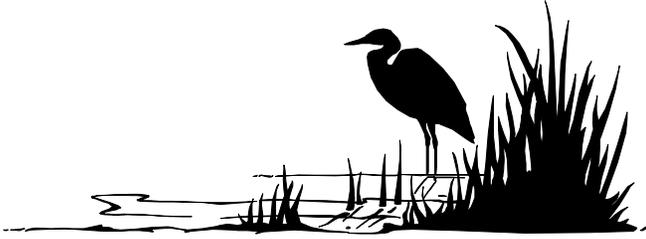
Local health agencies should:

- Maintain offsite testing requirements to ensure that contamination has not migrated
- Identify the health effects of redevelopment
- Ensure that the affected community participates in audits and assessments and ensure that public health issues are not overlooked

### **Funding for Public Health**

EPA and other granting bodies to cities must provide funding for:

- Public health agencies to participate in redevelopment activities
- Communities to participate in redevelopment activities
- Monitoring and enforcement of institutional controls as required by law



# LEHA

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After several months of work, the official LEHA Web Page was launched on Monday December 13, 1999. Still in the developmental mode, the site will provide members and interested individuals with copies of association newsletters, information on educational opportunities, the opportunity to get on mailing lists for upcoming events, and many other useful functions. President Parker, with support of the Board of Directors, targeted this project as one of her key items for the year.

The site address is [www.leha.net](http://www.leha.net).

Because the site is still under construction, members may provide comments, corrections, or suggestions to the Webmaster. Photographs and other word processing documents can be converted for use on the site, so you can send those to the Webmaster as attachments to your e-mail. The site will also be demonstrated at the Educational Conference in Lafayette in January.