



Please note that the following press release was issued by the EPA earlier today and is posted on EPA's web page for the incident, <https://response.epa.gov/USSteelHexavalentChrome>

Please disseminate to all interested parties.

EPA TO OVERSEE PHASED RESTART OF U.S. STEEL PLANT; DATA SHOW NO CHROMIUM IN WATER

Preliminary results of water samples collected by EPA from Burns Waterway and Lake Michigan, including Indiana American Water's intake, on April 12, do not indicate hexavalent chromium impacts in either water body. All results were below EPA's method detection limit of 1 part per billion. EPA will post preliminary and final data to a map viewer on its website as soon as possible.

EPA will provide oversight today as U.S. Steel restarts its operations, which have been idle for three days after a malfunction caused the discharge of hexavalent chromium into Burns Waterway within 100 yards of Lake Michigan. EPA recommended that the company delay its restart until the Agency had sufficient data to show there were no lingering effects to the waterway or Lake Michigan.

EPA and its partner agencies – including the National Park Service – have reviewed the U.S. Steel's operations restart plan. EPA will observe the startup process and will closely monitor the outfall discharge.

If this process goes smoothly, the company plans to gradually restart its plating lines this weekend, while neighboring beaches and water intakes remain closed.

More information about EPA's response to the spill is online at <https://response.epa.gov/USSteelHexavalentChrome>.

Additional information about hexavalent chromium

EPA has a national drinking water standard (also known as a Maximum Contaminant Level) for Total Chromium of 100 ug/L (parts per billion). Total Chromium includes both trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium.

EPA does not have a separate hexavalent chromium standard; however, EPA is currently evaluating health effects data to determine if a hexavalent chromium Maximum Contaminant Level is needed.

For additional information on chromium drinking water standards, please visit our website: <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

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