

Summary of Scientific Studies Conducted on Contamination of Union Carbide Site and Surrounding Areas in Bhopal

| S. No | Year | Agency | Study Title | Samples examined | Conclusions |
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| 1. | 1989 | Union Carbide Corporation | Site Rehabilitation Project –Bhopal Plant | Ground water inside factory premises | All samples cause 100% mortality to fish in toxicity assessment studies. |
| 2. | 1990 | Bhopal Group for Information and Action | Union Carbide in Bhopal, India-The lingering legacy | Soil sediments and waste stored inside the factory. Water in the adjacent communities | High levels of toxic materials were found in the samples from the waste storage area. One of the most toxic, dichlorobenzene, were also found in the community's drinking water. Dichlorobenzenes damage the liver, kidneys and respiratory system. Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), a group of known cancer causing agents were also discovered in the waste impoundment area. Phthalates were discovered in the surface soils in the waste pond. Phthalates are toxic to the liver. Additional toxins were also discovered in soil samples from the area |
| 3 | 1991 | State Research Laboratory, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh | Report of Chemicals found in Water for Communities around UCIL premises, | Ground water samples from 13 spots in the vicinity of the factory | The samples tested had Chemical Oxygen Demand (C.O.D.) values between 45 mg/l and 98 mg/l whereas the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) has fixed the standard value of C.O.D. for natural water at 6mg/l. The ground water is contaminated with bacteria and heavy chemicals |
| 4. | 1992 | National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (N.E.E.R.I.) | Process Package for disposal of SEP contents at UCIL, Bhopal | Soil and ground water samples from in and around UC factory | Water quality within an area of radius 1 km met the quality standards. Presence of Volatiles and Semi-volatiles in tested soil samples. Recommended the need to undertake a detailed investigation. |
| 5. | 1996 | State Research Laboratory, Public Health | Report of Chemicals found in Water for | Ground water samples from 13 spots in the vicinity of | The samples tested had Chemical Oxygen Demand (C.O.D.) values between 45 mg/l and 98 mg/l |

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| | | Engineering Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh | Communities around UCIL premises, | the factory | whereas the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) has fixed the standard value of C.O.D. for natural water at 6mg/l. The ground water is contaminated with bacteria and heavy chemicals |
| 6. | 1997 | NEERI | Assessment of contaminated areas due to past waste disposal practices by EIL, Bhopal | Samples collected from waste disposal areas, spilled areas and open area. Samples of soil, ground water and dump material from within the factory | The study found high levels of toxins and identified hot spots. Presence of Carbaryl, Temik, Manganese, Lindane, Alpha-naphthol etc was reported in the soil samples. 17 samples of ground water and none showed contamination and study noted that soil in & around the plant premises was mainly clayey with permeability rate of 1×10^{-8} which would have taken 23 years for contaminants to reach groundwater level. |
| 7. | 1999 | Greenpeace International | The Bhopal Legacy: Toxic contaminants at the former Union Carbide factory site, Bhopal, India: 15 years after the Bhopal accident. | Samples from Sludge and soil were collected at locations both within the plant and in an area to the north of the plant at which solar evaporation ponds (SEPs) Groundwater samples from drinking water wells to the north and south of the former UCIL site | The results of the survey indicate that the former UCIL site and immediate surrounding environment at Bhopal is contaminated with heavy metals and toxic organochlorine chemicals, including Persistent Organic Pollutants. Groundwater samples from around the site, showed high levels of chemical contamination, indicative of long-term contamination. Overall contamination of the site and immediate surroundings with chemicals have resulted either from routine processes during the operation of the plant, spillages and accidents, or continued release of chemicals from materials which remain dumped or stored on site. Some of the chemicals found in the water are mercury, lead, nickel, copper, chromium, chlorobenzenes, Trichlorobenzenes, Carbon tetrachloride and Hexachlorocyclohexane. |
| 8. | 2001 | Peoples Science Institute, Dehradun | A Report on Mercury Contamination of the Ground water Near UC Factory at Bhopal | Groundwater samples from communities surrounding the UCIL factory and Solar Evaporation Ponds | The sampling sites located nearer to the Carbide factory show elevated levels of the contaminant (Mercury) in the groundwater. Highest concentrations of Mercury occur in the groundwater samples taken from sites located towards the northern direction of the factory. |

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| 9. | 2002 | Greenpeace International | Chemical Stockpiles at Union Carbide India Limited n Bhopal: An Investigation | Stockpile sample from inside the plant and soil samples from Solar Evaporation Ponds | Eleven of the twelve stockpile samples were found to contain Carbaryl at concentrations in the parts per billion range. Ten contained hexachlorocyclohexanes, with total concentration varying between tens of parts per billion. |
| 10. | 2002 | Fact Finding Mission on Bhopal, New Delhi | Surviving Bhopal: Toxic Present, Toxic Future | 10 samples of soil with 6 samples from outside the factory. 3 samples of vegetables grown in area & 8 samples of breast milk | Study showed contaminants in soil and ground water but also the presence of chromium, lead nickel and mercury in vegetables grown in the area and in breast milk of mothers in the community adjacent to the Union Carbide factory |
| 11. | 2003 | Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board | Summary of ground water samples collected around UCIL premises (April 03 - Jan 04) | Ground water for 13 locations and soil samples from Solar Evaporation Ponds | The analysis of these samples reveals that the parameters viz. Colour, turbidity & chlorides of some samples exceeds the desirable limits of bis-10500 whereas parameters viz. Total hardness, total alkalinity, ds & fluorides exceeds the said limits in most of the samples. Pesticides like - lindane, endosulfan - i, ii, aldrin and b-bhc were detected in some of the samples. |
| 12. | 2009 | Central Pollution Control Board | CPCB Study | 8 Soil samples & 14 ground water samples in UC factory in communities | Detected arsenic, mercury and chromium & isomers of HCH in all samples. Detected Carbaryl in 75% of the samples tested for soil HCH isomers, Chlorinated Benzens, zinc and copper found in water samples |
| 13. | 2009 | Centre for Science & Environment, New Delhi | Contamination of soil and water inside and outside the Union Carbide India Limited, Bhopal | Ground water and soil samples from inside the factory. Ground water from communities adjacent to the factory and soil from Solar Evaporation Ponds | The waste stored within the UCIL premises had all chlorinated benzene compounds and all organochlorine compounds. The soil samples contained all chlorinated benzene compounds and organochlorine pesticides. The surface water sample collected from within the factory had the highest level of contamination. The concentration of pesticides found in all water samples were 1.1 to 59.3 times the only mandatory water standard in India fixed by the Bureau of Indian Standard. The average concentration in all groundwater samples was .006 ppm which is 12 times the standard. |

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| | | | | | Carbamate pesticides as a general group are considered to be moderately persistent in the environment. But finding carbamates in groundwater, 25 years since the plant shut down, clearly means that the UCIL plant is acting as a continuous source of groundwater contamination. |
| 14. | 2010 | National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) | Assessment & Remediation of Hazardous Waste contaminated areas in and around M/s Union Carbide India Ltd, Bhopal | Bore wells dug inside UCIL plant to test soil 30 Ground water samples collected from inside the factory | Three isomers of HCH (Lindane) detected in many soil samples. Carbaryl, Napthol, Dichlorobenzene and Mercury detected. Carbaryl, A-Napthol and B-HCH and Mercury were detected near SEP area. None of the samples collected from within UCIL were found to be contaminated. Only few had dichlorobenze and Aldicarb |
| 15-16 | 2012-2013 | Indian Institute of Toxicology Research | Analysis of Soil and groundwater Samples in Bhopal | These were two separate studies over a duration of 2 years. 10 samples of soil and 30 samples of ground water from around the UC plant. 24 samples of Surface and subsurface soil from inside and UC factory | Organic Contaminants such as Carbaryl, Aldicarb, HCH isomers and chlorinated benzenes & Heavy Metals such as Mercury, Lead and Chromium found in soil inside the factory A-BHC, Dichlorobenzene and TCB, Aldrin, HCH, Carbaryl found in ground water of communities around UC factory. Study reported contamination of ground water in 22 communities situated around UC factory premises |
| 17 | 2018 | Indian Institute of Toxicology Research | Analysis of ground water in Bhopal | 20 samples of ground water of 20 communities situated around Union Carbide Factory | A-BHC, Dichlorobenzene and TCB, Aldrin, HCH, Carbaryl found in ground water of communities around UC factory. Study reported contamination of ground water in additional 20 communities situated around UC factory premises. A total of 42 communities affected by ground water contamination |