

Ruckelshaus, Midlanders to talk about EPA's dioxin sampling

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Four Midlanders will participate in a Washington, D.C., meeting about the Midland and national dioxin sampling programs, U.S. Rep. Donald Albosta has announced.

Albosta, D-St. Charles, said he arranged the June 12 meeting with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Ruckelshaus to review the EPA's efforts on the dioxin program, which has been controversial locally.

"The purpose of the meeting will be to see where the EPA is at in terms of the dioxin study and particularly the samples taken last year in Michigan. We also need to make sure comparable sampling is being done at other sites, as promised earlier, so that there will be good data to compare the Midland samples to," Albosta said.

Samples taken in Midland were to be analyzed for dioxin at the parts per trillion level, and an Albosta aide said the congressman wants to know what other

sites are being tested at that level, and whether the EPA is preparing a health risk analysis to give the public something more than numbers to gauge the risk posed by dioxin.

Joining Albosta at the meeting with Ruckelshaus are to be Midland mayor Joseph Mann, county board chairman Scott MacDonald, Midland Area Chamber of Commerce director William Welch and Diane Hebert, director of the Environmental Congress of Mid-Michigan.