



## **Midlothian Petition Community Site Update February 2006**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), continues to make progress in the evaluation of historical air emissions data gathered in Midlothian.

DSHS has agreed to conduct a series of health consultations that will evaluate the possible health implications of exposures to environmental contaminants in the air emissions in Midlothian. The purpose of these consultations will be to address the concerns raised by members of the Midlothian community. The first health consultation evaluates environmental air monitoring data, obtained from TCEQ and collected from December 1973 through March 2005. The contaminant concentrations found in the air are being compared to health-based screening values. This consultation is the first step in determining which contaminants, if any, warrant a closer look; and based on the findings of the evaluation, DSHS will make recommendations for further investigation. Subsequent consultations will build upon the information gathered during the initial consultation to make inferences with respect to public health risks.

### **Next Steps**

Once the initial health consultation has been completed and reviewed by ATSDR, it will be released for public comment. The original release date for this document had been set for February, but due to the large volume of information to be reviewed, DSHS needed more time to compile, review, and write up the report. The document's anticipated release date is March 2006. When the document is released for public comment, community members will have 30 days to submit any comments or concerns about the document to DSHS staff. Comments must be submitted in writing either by email or US Mail postmarked before the end of the comment period in order to be addressed in the document. During the comment period DSHS will meet with the petitioner and city officials in order to discuss DSHS recommendations, future consultations, and possible community involvement activities.