

Report 16: Seek means to track and provide public access to environmental health history

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Brief History: Environmental health has a rich history which is often neglected, forgotten, and not adequately chronicled. It would be helpful to have a repository of such history, publicly available online.

Discussion Highlights: NIEHS' 50th anniversary will be coming up in several years. This would be an opportune moment, and opportunity for promotion, for the Institute to chronicle both its own institutional history and seek ways to more broadly connect with other attempts to capture environmental health history. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* can be said to have ushered in the modern day environmental movement in the US, although there are many older events and statutes throughout the world. The history of lead poisoning is a public health success stories. The tragedy of Bhopal lead to the Toxics Release Inventory. Numerous other important historical incidents such as DES, Minimata Bay and methylmercury poisoning, and Love Canal need to be kept vivid in our memories. The present and future build upon the past

Recommendations: Establish an initiative, if not formal office, within NIEHS to consider its own history, those of the environmental health movement, research accomplishments, regulatory achievements, environmental disasters, and influential scientists. Such a project could link to the Toxicology History Association and its activities.

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