

Main » [Meetings](#) » [Senior Arctic Officials](#) » [Senior Arctic Officials Meeting 2000, Fairbanks, Alaska](#) » [Agendas: Sustainable Development Working Group and Senior Arctic Officials](#) » **Report on Wednesday's Panel Discussion: Contaminants and Human Health**

Arctic Council Panel Discussion

Contaminants and Human Health

April 26, 2000 (1-2 p.m)

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Schaible Hall

Our objective in convening the panel discussion as part of the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council is to better link the work of the Council, an international intergovernmental forum, to the public in Alaska--both students and adults who will be on-line and in the audience. Simultaneously, we also want to showcase the distance learning capacities of the University of Alaska system and the cooperation between the State of Alaska and the Department of State during the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

We have a group of people all in one place April 26 in Fairbanks, Alaska for an educational, informative discussion of "Contaminants and Human Health", a matter of considerable public interest in Alaska.

- Residents of Alaska, particularly in coastal and far northern communities are concerned about the possible health risks associated with contaminants in the food chain. (Alaska Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer and Alaska Native Sciences Commission, Patricia Cochran.)
- The topic of contaminants and human health is of considerable immediate concern to Arctic residents, particularly indigenous people who regularly consume fish and marine mammals as a major component of their diet. (AMAP Secretariat Executive Director, Lars-Otto Reiersen.)
- The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) Working Group of the Arctic Council continues to assess the health and ecological risks associated with contamination from radioactive waste, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, and other contaminants. AMAP's Sub-group on Human Health brings together the work of eight Arctic nations on the effects of contaminants on human health. (Jens Hansen, Chairman of the AMAP Sub-Group on Human Health and Dr. James Berner, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.)
- Members of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks faculty are engaged in research to understand the links between the environment and health. (John Kelley, Professor of Marine Sciences and Lawrence Duffy, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry.)

We would expect Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer to introduce the subject of the hour's discussion, put the subject in context for the Alaska audience, and introduce the panel members. She could also pose questions to keep the panel on task.

We would expect the panel presenters in their brief presentations to address the following questions:

What are the contaminants that effect the health of Arctic residents?

What are the most common human health consequences of contaminants in the Arctic environment?

How does the Arctic environment compare with other environments?

What else do we need to know about the effects of contaminants on human health?

Are there other reasons for the special health problems of indigenous communities in the Arctic?

What do we know about the effects of contaminants on the health of fish and marine mammals that are indigenous to the Arctic?

What do we know about the sources of those contaminants that are suspected of negatively affecting human health?

The panel members and their contact information is as follows:

MODERATOR

The Honorable Fran Ulmer

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PANEL MEMBERS

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Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic on ResearchChannel

The Arctic Council's April 26, 2000 Panel on "Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic" program into our "Research in Life Sciences" programming slot that runs Thursdays with repeat broadcasts on Friday, Sundays and Mondays - a total of 48 airdates from May - July. You can see this slot at: <http://www.researchchannel.com/onair/grid.html> and if you go to <http://www.researchchannel.com/onair/> and look within each weekly program schedule, you can see where it is listed. These program schedules are also publicized on the EchoStar TV guide. People can watch the ResearchChannel on EchoStar's Dish 500 network on channel 9400. Also, all broadcasts are also webcast at various speeds using Windows Media

Player from: <http://www.researchchannel.com/onair/>

A list of broadcast dates are below and they begin Thursday May 18 and run through July 24 and we will continue to add airdates after that, unless you request that we stop the broadcasts of this program. We are in the process of encoding the program and it will be viewable from: <http://www.researchchannel.com/ondemand/uaf/> and <http://www.researchchannel.com/ondemand/subjects/lifesci.html>

Contaminants and Human Health in the Arctic
Broadcast Dates/Times on ResearchChannel
All times are Pacific.

Thursday - 8:00pm-9:00pm

May 18
June 08
June 29
July 20

Friday -12:00am-1:00am, 4:00am - 5:00am, 8:00am-9:00am, 12:00pm-1:00pm, 4:00pm-5:00pm

May 19
June 09
June 30
July 21

Sunday - 8:00-9:00pm

May 21
June 11
July 02
July 23

Monday - 12:00am-1:00am, 4:00am - 5:00am, 8:00am-9:00am, 12:00pm-1:00pm, 4:00pm-5:00pm

May 22
June 12
July 03
July 24

You can downlink the ResearchChannel for free, you just need to register, see: <http://www.researchchannel.com/onair/DSDrequest.html>

Contact Susan Brandt for more information:

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