

EPA to test air in homes near Montana oil spill

The Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday it will collect indoor air samples from homes downstream of a Yellowstone River oil spill after residents raised concerns about health risks from the tens of thousands of gallons of crude that poured into the watercourse.

About 150 people showed up at an EPA meeting Wednesday night with questions about **health risk**s, the duration of the cleanup, and whether the **oil** will permanently damage their livestock or property.

George Nilson, 69, said the fumes from **oil** that washed through his neighbor's property had been overwhelming.

"I've been in it for five days now, and the only way I can breathe is to have all the windows open," he said.

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Pipeline expert disputes Awtry's facts

While I respect the right of editorial writers to endorse opinions that counter my own, I must take issue with articles that so distort the facts they bear little resemblance to the truth.

Tuesday's (Oct. 11) editorial (by News-Times Publisher Greg Awtry) entitled "Keystone XL Pipeline, EIS" falsely suggests that TransCanada (the company planning to build the pipeline) produced the environmental study known as an "EIS."

That's simply wrong. The National Environmental Policy Act, signed into law by President Nixon in 1970, requires the government to create an EIS addressing potential environmental effects of proposed federal agency actions.

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