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## **Hydrocarbons in Drinking Water**

### **Bathing/showering/washing/teeth cleaning**

The use of the contaminated water for these activities is inappropriate if the residents have sensitive skin or other dermal complaints.

On the basis of the available information, it is unlikely any adverse effects would occur. However, it should be noted that as the measured contaminants are volatile there may be increased risk of inhalation exposure especially if the water is heated, in an enclosed environment.

### **Washing up dishes etc**

At the current levels reported the water could be used for this purpose in conjunction with dishwashing liquid which would remove the contaminants (but heating the water could increase the risk of inhalation exposure, as mentioned above).

### **Washing clothing**

No adverse health effects expected from this use but we cannot comment on the risk (if any) of causing damage or spoilage to the clothes. The householder's insurance company should be able to provide such advice or to indemnify against the risk.

### **Washing fruit/salad/vegetables**

It would be inappropriate to use water considered to be unsuitable for drinking for this purpose.

### **Cooking (e.g. boiling vegetables)**

It would be similarly inappropriate to use water considered to be unsuitable for drinking for this purpose; in addition the process of heating and/or boiling the water would contribute to the atmospheric burden of the contaminants by increasing vaporisation.

### **Lavatory flushing**

Water used for flushing toilets does not need to be suitable for drinking; although there is a potentially very small risk of aerosols produced during flushing contributing to atmospheric concentrations of the contaminants.

### **Consumption by domestic animals**

As the water falls outside the standards permitted for human consumption it would be unfair to permit its use for domestic animals. The issue of safety for animals would be better addressed by a veterinary surgeon.