

Evaluating the Toxicity of Activated Carbon to *Eisenia fetida*
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The flood-plain soils downstream from the Velsicol Superfund site in St. Louis, MI, have historically been contaminated with DDT and its metabolites, DDD and DDE. One approach to remediating this system is to reduce the bioavailability to wildlife by adding activated carbon to the surface of the soil. Preliminary data has demonstrated that the addition of activated carbon reduces the accumulation of these chemicals in the tissues of native worms as well as reducing the toxicity to laboratory exposed earthworms. However, the community has concerns about the potential toxicity of activated carbon to native species. The current study evaluated the effect of activated carbon on the survival, growth, and reproduction rates of *Eisenia fetida*. These studies showed that activated carbon did not significantly inhibit survival, growth, or reproduction for either adult or juvenile *E. fetida*. The conclusions drawn from this study indicate that activated carbon does not pose a risk to the wildlife and can continue to be used in the soil remediation process.