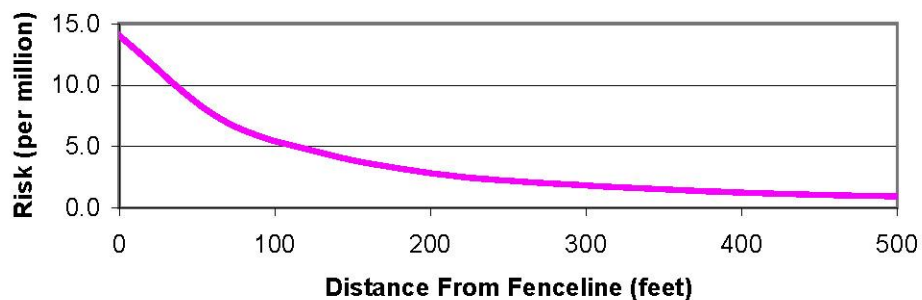


Perhaps the most clear connection between elevated health risk for schools and other sensitive uses located near a gas station is presented in the California Air Resources Board (ARB) [Air Quality and Land Use Handbook](#). Health effects range from nausea to cancer. The cancer risk posed by gas station emissions stems from benzene and other compounds released to the atmosphere while pumping gas.

The California ARB Handbook graph to the right indicates that adverse effects extend out at least 500 feet from a [hypermart](#). The Handbook describes those most vulnerable to adverse health effects and sensitive land uses as:

**Figure 1-6  
Gasoline Dispensing Facility Health Risk  
for 3,600,000 gal/yr throughput**



“Sensitive individuals refer to those segments of the population most susceptible to poor air quality (i.e., children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality). Land uses where sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time include schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities (sensitive sites or sensitive land uses).”

Montgomery County, MD<sup>2</sup> and other jurisdictions across the U.S. have adopted a requirement that new gas stations be located 500 feet or more from the nearest home.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency echoed the concerns about the health risk associated with fueling emissions in their [School Siting Guidelines](#). The USEPA recommended screening school sites for potential health risk when located within 1,000 feet of a high-volume gas station.

CEDS recommends retaining an expert to testify about the health threat posed by the proposed hypermart to area residents and school students. There are several highly-qualified professionals with the relevant expertise in the CEDS network. If our clients wish we can see if any would be available to testify at the upcoming hearing. Would you like us to do this?

<sup>2</sup> See Montgomery County Code Section 3.5.13C(2)(c) at: [http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=amlegal:montgomeryco\\_md\\_mc](http://library.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=amlegal:montgomeryco_md_mc)