

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

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From:  
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2007 2:23 AM  
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)  
Cc: Doyle, Glenn (CDC/NIOSH/EID); Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)  
Subject: 103 - Endicott Report Comments

Name

Organization  
IBM - East Fishkill, NY -

Email

Address

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Comments

To whom it may concern at NIOSH,

Please include the IBM East Fishkill, NY Plant in the TCE study.  
Following are excerpts from my previous comments/writings.

7/29/06

For those of us who have used TCE (trichloroethylene) as part of our work/jobs in industry -- and as more information gets out to the right people -- the impacts of TCE will no doubt be as serious and widespread as the asbestosis lawsuits. If it's been in your drinking water at very low levels (5 ppb or more) you may not even know it. And those folks who didn't work with TCE directly but it was used somewhere in your manufacturing facility you still could have been exposed to dangerous levels of TCE -- even if you were sitting in an office setting, without really knowing it.

The semiconductor/electronics industries were most likely one of the biggest users of this dangerous chemical carcinogen. Unfortunately a lot leaked into underground aquifers and exhausted into the air and it's still with us long after its use was discontinued in US industries.

My            had daily, heavy exposure to TCE in his job at IBM East Fishkill and eventually contracted bladder cancer that quickly spread to other parts of his body -- he died in his early        . His exposure to TCE took place approximately        years earlier.

PS -- there are those who don't believe, will never believe, that many different chemicals in the environment are dangerous to human health -- until something happens to them or a loved one. Thank God they are in the minority.

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"Jelinek said at one time fabrication facilities filtered air through large rooms to keep toxins out and equipment clean. Today, companies encapsulate equipment in the room, because it was too expensive to recycle air in such a large room." -- from the article "Study of IBM Deaths Links Chip Manufacturing To Cancer" -- By Laurie Sullivan, TechWeb, Fri Oct 20, 7:05 PM ET

(Len Jelinek, is director and principal semiconductor analyst at research firm iSuppli Corp., El Segundo, Calif.) according to Laurie Sullivan

The statement in Ms. Sullivan's article re "keeping toxins out" is simply not true -- the clean room wasn't

even capable of doing what she reported.

I wonder where she got that bit of info? From the semiconductor analyst?

Where did Mr. Jelinek get his info from? Was he directly involved with clean room engineering, design, monitoring, maintenance and repair? Or was he simply getting his info from a 5th generation spin doctor? Am I surprised that information such as this can now surface -- long after some folks have suffered and died from exposures to exotic chemicals? No, I expect it.

Clean rooms (spec. VLF -- Vertical Laminar Flow Clean Rooms) were designed to maintain a particulate free environment in the room.

Did or could they keep out toxins, solvents and other objectionable materials from entering the VLF clean room? No.

Did they protect the employees from exposures to harmful contaminants? No.

Did the H.E.P.A. filters of the VLF Clean Room prevent certain emergency evacuations of employees? No.

Was the challenge agent that was used to test HEPA filters a suspected carcinogen? Yes, according to some early EPA reports and memos.

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12/18/06

"On the other hand, we now understand the physiological impact of some of the chemicals being used in fabrication facilities." -- Len Jelinek

"The study examines data on the cause of death for 31,941 people who had worked for IBM Corp., and died between 1969 and 2001. Of the 27,272 men who died, there were 7,697 deaths from cancer, significantly higher than the 7,206 expected, according to national averages, the study said. Of 4,669 women, 1,667 had died of cancer, higher than the 1,454 expected according to averages." -- from the article "Study of IBM Deaths Links Chip Manufacturing To Cancer" -- By Laurie Sullivan, TechWeb Fri Oct 20, 7:05 PM ET

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This report mentions the time span from 1969 to 2001. The first VLF clean room was introduced and built as a pre-production line at my location in the NE in the late 80's. So what happened between 1969 and the late 80's.

I believe the first VLF clean room was built in EF. There were other simple clean rooms, at the time, that didn't perform very well as far as controlling particulates -- they didn't have 100% HEPA ceiling coverage. And there were still many "clean work stations" in use -- both exhausted and non-exhausted types. Much of this technology was "state of the art" day by day learning, engineering, design, maintenance and monitoring -- if you could get someone to assume responsibility for ownership of the "black box."

This is the type of hype that big business, big government and so-called experts get away with when dealing with employees or US citizens -- the most gullible creatures in the world are US citizens -- and it makes it into print without a challenge as far as I know.

I empathize with all of the folks who have suffered from different types of hazardous industrial exposures, poisons in pharmaceuticals without really knowing it -- and the illnesses that the exposures may have caused.

The families of these people have suffered along with their loved one's illnesses too.