

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From:

Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2007 10:58 PM

To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC); Frumkin, Howard (ATSDR/OA/OD)

Cc: millett.john@epa.gov; Safay, Bob (EPA) (CDC epa.gov)

Subject: 103 - Endicott Project Comments

Dear Dr. Frumkin,

As you know in _____, my son, _____ was diagnosed at age _____ with childhood leukemia. We linked this blood forming cancer to contaminated groundwater from industrial toxicants which migrated to our property.

You were one of the experts I sought for assistance then as a professor at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. We discussed my son's case in depth, and you requested using his case study in your classroom. You taught me that there are no occupational studies on children although, unfortunately, their exposures near industrial sites can be as significant.

Now as Director of the National Center for Environmental Health, and the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry, you are in a strategic position to fill data gaps which exist on children and adults. That is why I am writing you today regarding the NIOSH Feasibility Assessment for a Cancer Study Among Former IBM Employees Who Worked at the Endicott, New York Plant.

I am asking that you do everything within your power to see that it is moved forward. In considering those workers who have suffered occupational exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE), and their ensuing health consequences, the CDC will be instrumental in getting TCE better regulated.

Hopefully, if the study is well designed and implemented, it will be a catalyst for better occupational and safety standards for workers like my friend, _____, and his colleagues who worked at Endicott. The benefit of this much needed research will also spill over into communities next to such facilities. Ultimately, there will be no TCE to migrate into private wells which will spare families like mine from such exposures.

I hope 2007 has been a productive year for you at the CDC, and that the morale of employees is picking up. An Endicott study would ultimately give the CDC a much needed image boost. It is a win/win situation.

Respectfully,