

May 16 2001

Warren K. Sinclair
236 Tampico Glen
Escondido, CA 92025
Fax: 760-738-0660
e-mail: wksinclair@home.com

May 1st, 2001

Dr. Larry J. Elliott
Branch Chief, Health-Related Energy Res. Branch
Div. of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations & Field Studies
Nat'l Inst. for Occupational Safety & Health
Robt. A. Taft Laboratories
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998

Dear Dr. Elliott,

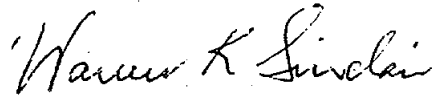
In a recent presentation to the Radiation Research Society (April 24th) Dr. Shirley Fry addressed the question of epidemiological studies of workers exposed to radiation during their work. Included was reference to the John Hopkins study of shipyard workers by Genevieve Matanoski.* It has always been a matter of concern to me that that important study – of about 40,000 exposed and 40,000 unexposed workers wound up with an inconclusive result which was never published in a peer reviewed journal. The result is also often misquoted.

Apart from my general interest in this matter (on behalf of the National Council on Radiation Protection – for whom, as President Emeritus, I maintain specific interest in the epidemiological studies relevant to radiation protection) the subject of the shipyard workers study has frequently come up at the Veterans Administration Committee on Environmental Hazards which is concerned with advising on policy at the VA with respect to Veterans exposures and compensation issues. (Ted Colton of early shipyard history is also a member of that Committee).

I understand that you have the responsibility within NIOSH for studies of workers exposed to radiation and I would be very interested to know whether you consider there is any possibility that this study will be revisited, updated, re-evaluated or whatever so that its results, which could be of substantial value, would become a more important part of our knowledge base on worker studies. ** Its relevance would seem to be more important now with so much attention being focused on DOE workers.

I would greatly appreciate any comments or information you may have on this subject.

Yours sincerely,



Warren Sinclair
President Emeritus, NCRP

(present address – 236 Tampico Glen, Escondido, CA 92025

*Health Effects of Low Level Radiation in Shipyard Workers DOE contract No. DE-ACO2-79EV10095 Final Report June 1991. Genevieve M. Matanoski M.D. Dr. P.H

**Furthermore the Health Bulletin of the Office of Epidemiology and Health Surveillance issued a summary statement about the study in September 1991 which included "Additional studies are planned to investigate this observation and update the study with data beyond 1981."

cc. Shirley Fry