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

**From:** RJW100003@aol.com
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 10:43 PM
**To:** NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
**Subject:** DOCKET 248
**Attachments:** NIOSH 248.docx

Please find attached a letter I wish to introduce to the committee to consider cancers to be added to the Zadroga bill.

Thank you
Robert Wallen

224 Preston Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10312
February 9, 2012

NIOSH DOCKET#248

Dear NIOSH:

I am a 47 year old permanently and totally disabled New York City Fire Lieutenant. I was present at ground zero everyday from Tuesday 9/11/01 until Sunday 9/16/2001. I was diagnosed with Myelodysplasia, a bone marrow failure disease in October 2003. The only known chemical to cause this disease is Benzene. Two weeks after the attacks the EPA started monitoring the air and measured the amount of Benzene at 4,000 times normal. These measurements were taken a week after I left. How high were they when I was present? No one will ever know. I developed pneumonia in May 2005 due to my Myelodysplasia. The disease lowers your ability to fight disease. In September 2005 I received a Stem Cell Transplant. As conditioning for the transplant I received dose intense chemotherapy for10 days. Myelodysplasia is considered pre leukemia. If left untreated it will progress into leukemia. Not wanting this to happen I decided to try the transplant at Hackensack University Medical Center. The transplant was a success and the disease is gone. Unfortunately the chemotherapy and transplant has left me with several debilitating side effects. I now have chronic graft vs. host disease, hypothyroidism, chronic fatigue, neuropathy, and severe occipital nerve pain and memory loss.

In February 2011 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. In October 2011 I had a radical prostatectomy. I had two cancerous tumors in the prostate. On one side the tumor was 17% and the other side the tumor was 1%.

I stopped working on May 17, 2005 and was forced to retire from the FDNY on June 23, 2005. I have been unable to work since May 2005.

There is no history of cancer or any other major diseases in my family. My paternal grandfather lived to 95 and grandmother lived to 87. My maternal grandfather lived to 94 and grandmother is still living at 96. I was a healthy person with no medical issues and took no medications prior to 9/11/01.

Myelodysplasia is a disease with the onset age of 72. Prostate cancer onset age is 70. It is extremely rare for men under 45 to develop prostate cancer.

I appeal to your knowledge of epidemiology, causation and common sense to include these cancers as well as others that potential could have been caused by this tragedy.

Thank you,
Robert J. Wallen
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