

Miller, Diane M.

From:

Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2002 6:30 PM

To: niocindocket@cdc.gov

Subject: special cohort

The following are my comments:

I am the wife of a sick worker from Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, TN. I worked for the Federal Government for 25 years and I know B.S. when I see it.

First, dose reconstruction is just a way to deny claims. DOE has admitted to making the workers sick at their facilities, and it has also come to light that records were kept in a fraudulent manner and, in some cases, missing. Certain plants (gaseous diffusion plants) are put in a special cohort, and if the sick workers qualify, their payment is automatic. Not so at other facilities. Do you think these other facilities kept accurate records? I say NO. All the facilities were subject to DOE regulations and recordkeeping. Therefore, dose reconstruction is a joke.

Second, the title to this program should be changed to "Energy Employees Death Benefit" because most of the payments of \$150,000 have gone to dead employees' spouses and families. The very few SICK WORKERS paid have been in the "special cohort" status where they automatically qualify.

Third, in the bill that Congress passed, it was stated "that if the workers had known what they were working in, they would have demanded hazardous duty pay." These workers have sacrificed their lives for this country during the "Cold War" and many are sick and dying everyday. They are not asking for hazardous duty pay--only what Congress has said they deserve. Also, I feel compelled to say that in Oak Ridge, TN, our Congressman has not helped us at all and does not seem concerned enough even to sign on to a letter to Spencer Abraham from other Congressmen to give us support. Also the news media in Oak Ridge and Knoxville have also been "gagged" I suppose because of the November election.

Fourth, as the wife of a sick worker who has been sick since 1994 with a numerous amount of problems, such as Major Depression, sleep apnea, Ministroke, three heart attacks, 7 heart bypasses, and now 4th stage prostate cancer which has spread to his bones and lymph nodes, I have had to stand by and watch this patriotic man's health deteriorate. This is a travesty of justice of the worst kind. And do not think that DOE and the Government did not know that what they were working in could cause all this. Otherwise, why did DOE keep mortality tables of workers and what they died from. I believe these people were used as guinea pigs. You can pull up the MSDS on the chemicals at these facilities and you will see what they cause--nevermind what exposure to radiation causes.

Fifth, if you are going to use "Scientific Assumptions" to do dose reconstruction where no records exist, then this is a contradiction in terms. I do not believe science is based on "assumptions."

In summary, I am begging you to do as Congress asked--to pay the sick and dying workers now--not next year and not ten years down the road. I would at least like my husband to know that he has been paid what he deserved for his sacrifices before he

dies.

P.S. If I sound angry, I AM.

<http://communities.msn.com/sickworkers>