

Miller, Diane M.

From: Mindy Newby
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2001 1:32 AM
To: NIOCINDOCKET@CDC.GOV
Subject: COMPENSATION FOR NUCLEAR WORKERS

It is encouraging that the HHS is coming up with a final rule to determine dose levels and causation of nuclear workers' illnesses. I would encourage you to move forward VERY quickly with your methodology so that sick and dying workers can be compensated immediately. Actually, it's an outrage that they still have not been compensated, since many of them have been suffering 40 or 50 years. How long is this supposed to take? When are they going to get their money? Maybe this dose reconstruction will settle once and for all the fact that exposure to radiation and toxins at nuclear power plants is what has caused the workers' illnesses. My gut feeling is that these studies are just another way to stall them and let more of them die so you won't have to spend so much money caring for them. It is no secret that working in a nuclear plant is bad for your health and that the nuclear industry has covered up crime after crime after crime, from releasing nuclear material into the atmosphere to sickening and killing its workers. How many more people will have to die an agonizing death, penniless from trying to pay for their own enormous hospital bills when they should have been covered by workers' comp years and years ago? Maybe it will take an act of Congress, as it did with the victims of Agent Orange.

I have little to no faith in the HHS to make good with its promise of compensation, since it would be an admission that we cannot operate these insanely dangerous power plants without making workers sick. I would like to see you prove me wrong, though.