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To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 226 - Implementation of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 (Pub. L 111-347) Comments

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Comments

Neurological Illnesses such as peripheral neuropathy should be added to the list of covered conditions. At present time at the various centers of excellence, FDNY, MT. Sinai, Stony Brook, etc. In the questionnaires, there are no questions even asked about numbness, tingling, or nerve pain. First responders, volunteers, residents, students were exposed to a substantial list of neuro toxins. It would stand to reason that there would be a number of people who were exposed to be affected neurologically. In my experience this has been the case. In the course of the last 8 years I have talked to a substantial number of people who responded the day of and thereafter to the World Trade Center site and temporary morgues who tell me of numbness, pain, tingling in fingers, toes, feet, arms, legs, shoulders, etc. that have not even considered to report these neurological symptoms to the various centers of excellence who cover them because the questions aren't asked and there is no place to list additional symptoms.

I also support the points addressed by the Zadroga Action Team (Fealgood Foundation). The list of illnesses need to be explored and examined more thoroughly, and the list needs to be expanded. After many years we still have the same list of illnesses covered even though the symptoms and illnesses of those exposed has grown alarmingly. I agree with the Zadroga Action Team about the vital need for patient input via the community advisory council in regards to establishing a formal mechanism to consult with and receiving input from responders and survivors representatives.

There should be a community advisory council at each World Trade Center HP center. There must also be responder and survivor input in the scientific/technical advisory committee in all aspects of its responsibilities. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my suggestions.