

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

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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

i would hope for a little flexibility. i worked from October through to May31st 2002. Although I do not have many of the health problems some of my colleagues have, i do have health problems that may become problematic in the future. None of us can say with any real certainty that we went down to the trade Center in perfect health. I know for myself I had several medical issues which were not serious, nor did they interfere with my life. But since my work at the trade Center they have become much more serious and i am being monitored by Mt. Sinai. My question is, if these problems are much worse because of my work at the trade center, how do I apply if they disable me? how can I possibly show that medical issues I had before would not have developed to the point they are now except for my work?

For example- I have always been very hard of hearing. I wear a hearing aid and should wear two. My hearing loss is a nerve deafness, so there is a certain range of sound I have never been able to hear. My work at the trade center has affected my sinuses - I have far more infections, and this has affected my ears as well so that I have constant ear infections, and my ear drum is now scarred. Of course this impacts another whole range of sound and possibly means a complete hearing loss. How can the commission assess problems like this, or will we simply be shunted aside and told our problems have nothing to do with our work at the Trade Center?

The vollies are really the forgotten people of Ground Zero. Many of us were there from day one, or in the area. When people were yelling about faces mask and toxins, we were working only a block or so up the street- breathing the same air and toxins. I know many people who got ill after just a few days working the site, and even without having gone on the pile or in the Pit. I was there for nearly 9 months. I have no idea what medical problems I will face in the future, I only can see there are several developing now. I consider myself luckier than most that my lungs are still unaffected. I just hope that the Zadroga commission will take all of these variables into consideration.