April 16, 1996

Diane Manning  
NIOSH  
Education and Information Division  
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Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998

Dear Ms. Manning:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft criteria document on Metal Working Fluids. The document is well done and very timely. I applaud NIOSH’s initiative on this issue.

Specific additions:

1) Pg. 19, section 4.1.2. There are additional studies of cancer in broad occupational groups. For example, without doing a literature search, I am aware of the following article - Hall N and Rosenman KD. Cancer by industry: analysis of a population-based cancer registry with an emphasis on blue-collar workers. Amer J. Industrial Medicine 1991; 19:145-159. There are associations in our paper with MWF using industries.

2) Pg. 68, section 4.2.1.2. One of the lung conditions associated with exposure to cobalt is a hypersensitivity pneumonitis with a particular multinucleated giant cell seen on biopsy. Although this has been described in diamond polishers which I believe is done dry, a number of the reports describe coolant exposure: Cugel DW et al. The Respiratory Effects of Cobalt. Archives of Internal Medicine 1990; 150:177-183; Sjogren I et al. Hard Metal Lung Disease: Importance of Cobalt in Coolant. Thorax 1980: 35: 653-659. Perhaps the acute form of interstitial pneumonitis reported with cobalt is actually, at least in some cases, secondary to the MWF.

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3) Pg. 69, section 4.2.1.4. I am aware of 2 other outbreaks of hypersensitivity pneumonitis: (1) GM plant, Ontario - A physician at McMasters has written to Dr. Fine about this outbreak; (2) Chrysler plant, Kenosha, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Health Department is currently investigating. Dr. Henry Anderson, Chief Medical Officer could provide details.

4) Pg. 76, section 4.2.2.3. Enclosed is a copy of a wording change to more accurately describe our data.

5) Pg. 220, references. A number of references in the text are not included (ie. Burge Rossmore (1981) etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kenneth D. Rosenman, M. D.
Professor of Medicine

KDR/rjv