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Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Demian

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Demian:

This is in response to your letter of March 18, 1978, to the Department of Energy (DOE) inquiring about DOE health and mortality studies of workers at nuclear facilities. Following are the answers to your questions.

1. "Was the Mancuso study the only one of its kind on workers at nuclear facilities?"

In addition to the study conducted by Dr. Mancuso, the following studies on effects of workers at nuclear facilities are ongoing:

- a. A study of the possible long-term health effects of plutonium body burdens in 20,000 plutonium workers and controls at Los Alamos, Rocky Flats, Mound, Savannah River, Hanford, and Oak Ridge.
- b. An epidemiological study to determine the health experience of worker populations at selected nuclear facilities.

The following DOE funded programs are relevant to the determination of health effects from radiation:

- a. A study of the lifetime effects of fallout from weapons testing on the Marshallese accidentally exposed in 1954.
- b. A study to detect late radiation effects in A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Efforts are currently underway to expand the studies of the health effects of low-level radiation to all of the former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) sites where adequate data bases exist. Also, discussions have been held with the U. S. Navy to define the scope of a study to be initiated on shipyard workers exposed to low levels of radiation. Finally, personnel exposed to atomic weapons testing at the AEC's Nevada Test Site will be covered in a similar study.

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FOLDER 2.3 Mancuso Project (mortality data)

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Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Demian

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2. "What exactly is the Transuranium Registry, and what is its function? Is it involved in any retrospective and/or epidemiological study regarding former workers at nuclear facilities?"

The U. S. Transuranium Registry is a center for the acquisition and recording of information on the deposition of the transuranic elements in man and their effects on man.

The Transuranium Registry is not intended to collect information for epidemiological studies. It does, however, interact with many of the active epidemiological studies by securing and providing data on workers.

3. "Are the labs at Livermore, Los Alamos, and Rocky Flats involved in any of this type of research? If so can you inform us of the particular populations being studied?"

Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory is conducting an epidemiological study of plutonium workers. The study populations are workers and controls at Los Alamos, Rocky Flats, Hanford, Mound, Savannah River, and Oak Ridge.

I hope this information will give you a clearer understanding of the scope of DOE activities dedicated to improving our knowledge of human health effects from low-level radiation.

Sincerely,

Walter H. Weyzen, Manager
Human Health Studies Programs
Division of Biomedical and
Environmental Research

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