



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

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The Honorable Ray Marshall
Secretary of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Ray:

On September 21 I informed you of the steps I was taking to resolve as quickly as possible the questions which had arisen about the studies of the carcinogenicity of beryllium. We began this effort in response to Dr. Eula Bingham's request for a review of all the data indicating the carcinogenicity of beryllium.

Dr. Julius Richmond, the Surgeon General, and Dr. William Foege, the Director of the Center for Disease Control, have reviewed the studies with distinguished independent experts. On October 9, seven leading experts met at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta to review the pertinent scientific experimental and epidemiological information on beryllium.

I am transmitting the report of Drs. Richmond and Foege, along with the findings of the independent experts.

The experts generally agreed that the data show that beryllium is an animal carcinogen, and that the epidemiologic evidence suggests an association between beryllium exposure and human cancer. They also agree that there is insufficient data to determine whether beryllium copper alloy is a carcinogen, and they therefore recommend that this alloy be tested further. We are taking steps to stimulate such further testing and research.

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In their report, Drs. Richmond and Foegen recommend that, based on the experts' conclusion that beryllium is a carcinogen in animals, OSHA proceed to set standards that limit exposure to beryllium in the work place.

I hope this information proves useful to you in determining the appropriate regulatory action.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable James R. Schlesinger
Secretary of Energy

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