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24 June 1976

Dr. John F. Finklea, Director
National Institute of Occupational
Safety & Health
Parklawn Bldg.
5600 Fisher Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20014

Dear Dr. Finklea:

Enclosed you will find information from one of our employee health surveillance programs that suggests a possible association of exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) during a period from 1949-58 and cancer (specifically, melanoma and pancreatic cancer).

We are aware that at least one of these chlorinated hydrocarbons (Arochlor 1254) has been shown to be carcinogenic by oral administration in two species of experimental animals (mice, rats). To the best of our knowledge, there have been no prior reports implicating human cancer during the manufacture or industrial use of PCB's.

A preliminary evaluation of our small cohort suggests the overall cancer incidence observed is higher than for the population at large, but does not exceed the expected death rate for chemists. However, because of the possible occupational health significance of these preliminary findings, we call this to your attention in connection with your investigation of more extensive and longer term industrial PCB exposure.

Yours truly,

Harry A. Sinclaire, M.D.
Medical Director

HAS:jd
Enclosure

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