

CONDEA Vista Company
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To: Lake Charles, LA VCM
Aberdeen, MS
Oklahoma City, OK

From: Tom Grumbles

Date: February 14, 2000

Subject: **Epidemiology Study Results**

As you may know, CONDEA Vista Company completed an epidemiology study update in 1999 that looked at the causes of death of employees at the Lake Charles VCM, Oklahoma City, and Aberdeen plants. This study was conducted by Dr. Kenneth Mundt of Applied Epidemiology Inc., who also conducted a similar study for the Chemical Manufacturers Association, the results of which were communicated to you in September 1998.

The results of the CONDEA Vista Company 1999 study update were very similar to the results of the 1996 study that was conducted at these same company sites. The 1999 study followed 1,789 employees who worked for at least 90 days between 1963 and 1996 at either Lake Charles VCM, Aberdeen or Oklahoma City.

The key findings of the study:

- The study does not suggest any unusual or important differences in the causes of death by cancer or any other form of disease for the population studied.
- While there were some instances in which deaths due to certain diseases were higher than expected, it was impossible to explain these excesses in terms of occupational exposures, mainly due to the very small numbers of deaths and the small size of the study.
- The healthy worker effect was again confirmed by a finding of fewer deaths than expected for certain diseases. The healthy worker effect is the name for a trend in which employees of industry are in better health than the general population because they are provided healthcare opportunities from their employers and utilize those benefits.

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- There were no deaths attributed to angiosarcoma of the liver. Exposure to VCM prior to the reduced limits set in 1974 has linked to angiosarcoma of the liver, a type of cancer.
- There were fewer deaths than expected among this group of employees from all cancers, and circulatory and respiratory diseases.

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