

BIO-MEDICAL RESEARCH
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March 24, 1980
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*cc Reitz
Gehring*
*This discussion
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Joseph K. Wagoner, Sc.D.
Environmental Defense Fund
1525 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Joe:

I am writing to let you know that I regret the confusion about your question during the session of March 20th. A recent letter in Science on lead by Kang, Infante and Carra was on my mind -- in fact, I had just been editing a reply -- and the September letter by Reitz et al never occurred to me. It was for this reason that our discussion was so incomprehensible and non-communicative.

If I had been commenting on the letter by Reitz et al, I would have had to say that it was clearly too early to know precisely how many hepatic hemangiosarcomas were going to occur in the U.S. population that had been exposed. Also, exposures have not been defined well enough to infer that average exposures were 200 ppm, but they certainly were above 1 ppm. Many individual workers were exposed above 200 ppm or 500 ppm. The angiosarcomas that occurred since 1972 and were therefore not in our study would have to be related to additional person-years of risk and probably would not raise the rate beyond the range predicted by Gehring et al. The number certainly will not approach the prediction of Hooper, Harris and Ames. It is likely that Reitz et al are correct in their general thesis.

I enjoyed seeing you and wish we could have opportunities to discuss some of these issues in more depth.

Sincerely,



W. Clark Cooper, M.D.

WCC:bs

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