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1 NO. 90-3696

2 **NORMAN W. ELLIS, ***

14TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

3 **ET AL**

4 **VS. ***

PARISH OF CALCASIEU

5 **INSURANCE COMPANY OF**

6 **NORTH AMERICA, ET AL ***

STATE OF LOUISIANA

7

8

9 **CONTINUED DEPOSITION OF**

10

11 **OTTO WONG, ScD., F.A.C.E.**

12

13 **VOLUME II OF II**

14 **December 20, 1991**

15 901 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 836

16 Lake Charles, Louisiana

17

18

19

20 Reported by:

21 JAMES G. ELLIS, CSR

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NELL MC CALLUM 3 ASSOCIATES, INC.

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7 (ALL EXHIBITS WERE MARKED IN VOLUME I OF II)

8

9 CERTIFIED QUESTIONS (NONE)

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 For the Plaintiffs:

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9 For the Defendant Lloyd's of London:

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1 Continued Deposition via telephone of
2 OTTO WONG, ScD., F.A.C.E., called by Plaintiffs on
3 December 20, 1991, at 901 Lakeshore Drive,
4 Suite 836, Lake Charles, Louisiana, at 10:00 a.m.,
5 before JAMES G. ELLIS, CSR, Texas No. 3004, in and
6 for the State of Texas, pursuant to notice and the
7 following stipulations:

8 THE REPORTER: Are we going to
9 have all the same agreements?

10 MR. McCALL: Yes. .

11 MR. HYDE: Right.

12 (THIS DEPOSITION IS BEING TAKEN
13 PURSUANT TO NOTICE AND THE LOUISIANA
14 RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, AND IS TO BE
15 READ AND SIGNED BY THE WITNESS)

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1 OTTO WONG, ScD., F.A.C.E.,
2 having been previously duly sworn, testified as
3 follows, to-wit:

4 EXAMINATION BY MR. HYDE:

5 Q. Dr. Wong,, have you done any more
6 research since the last time you and I talked in
7 the deposition relative to this case?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Have you looked at any other documents
10 at all concerning benzene and epidemioJogy or
11 toxicology relative to this case since the last
12 time we talked?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Where are you presently located right
15 now?

16 A. Right now? In my office.

17 Q. Is there anybody else in your office?

18 A. No.

19 Q. When we last talked, we were discussing
20 Mr. Lilly. And we were talking about his level of
21 benzene exposure, whatever those levels were. Do
22 you recall that discussion?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. I think I had asked you -- and
25 we'll pick it up right here -- for purposes of
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1 your opinions in this case, what levels of benzene
2 exposure did you assume Mr. Lilly to have relative
3 to his work at the Cities Service refinery located
4 in Calcasieu Parish during the time when he was
5 either a boilermaker or a lab technician or a
6 laborer. And can you tell me what those benzene
7 levels were?

8 A. I do not have specific information on
9 his exposure. At least I cannot quantify that.
10 The information I have at this point is his
11 general job titles. And I -- what I have done is,
12 I tried to equate that with what's out in the
13 literature in terms of job tasks and job functions.

14 Q. What levels did you then assume as it
15 concerns his benzene exposure based on the
16 literature that you reviewed?

17 A. I would think his exposure would be
18 similar to maintenance people in industry.

19 Q. What was that exposure level? Do you
20 have any quantification at all?

21 A. I do not have any quantification at this
22 point, no.

23 Q. Now, have you reviewed any of the
24 industrial hygiene monitoring information for
25 boilermakers who worked at the Cities Service
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1 refinery at any point in time?

2 A. I don't recall off the top of my head.

3 I did review Nancy Culver's report. I don't

4 remember whether there was any specific exposure

5 information for boilermakers.

6 Q. So, as it stands here today, assuming

7 that Nancy Culver's report does not contain

8 industrial hygiene monitoring results for

9 boilermakers, then you have not seen any of the

10 benzene monitoring results for boilermakers at the

11 Cities Service refinery?

12 A. That would be correct.

13 Q. Now, what was your estimation of

14 Mr. Lilly's level of exposure to butadiene

15 relative to his work at the Cities Service

16 refinery?

17 A. I would give you a similar answer.

18 Q. And what would that answer be?

19 A. And that is, I do not have specific

20 information on his exposure.

21 MR. McCALL: Are you talking about

22 quantification, Counsel?

23 THE WITNESS: Right. I cannot

24 quantify that.

25

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1 BY MR. HYDE:

2 Q. Are you able to quantify boilermakers',
3 in general, exposure to butadiene at a refinery?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Have you ever seen any literature
6 indicating boilermakers' exposure to butadiene at
7 a refinery?

8 A. I haven't done that yet, no.

9 Q. Have you ever seen any literature or
10 reviewed any documents that would indicate what a
11 boilermaker's or a laborer's exposure to butadiene
12 would be in a butadiene manufacturing plant?

13 A. I don't recall that.

14 Q. Do you know how long of a period of time
15 Mr. Lilly was exposed to butadiene?

16 A. I have some information on the duration
17 of employment, but I do not have any specific
18 information on exactly how long he was or was not
19 exposed to butadiene.

20 Q. Is that information you need before you
21 can completely render an opinion in this case?

22 A. I would like to have that information;
23 but there is an overriding issue there, yes. And
24 that is, is there any relationship at all between
25 exposure to butadiene and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
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1 Q. What is your opinion as it concerns the
2 exposure of an individual to butadiene and the
3 disease non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in that same
4 person?

MR. McCALL: Counsel, let me enter
6 an objection as to the form of the
7 question because I'm not sure. Are you
8 talking about a causal relationship
9 between butadiene and NHL? You used the
10 term "exposure." Are you talking about
11 levels of exposure, or are you talking
12 about relationship between the chemical
13 butadiene and the disease?

14 BY MR. HYDE:

15 Q. Can you answer my question, Dr. Wong?

16 A. Can you explain the question in more
17 detail? Can you rephrase the question maybe?

18 Q. Let me start off generally. As an
19 epidemiologist, do you consider that there is an
20 association between individuals exposed to
21 butadiene and the disease non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

22 A. I would say no, there is no association
23 at this point, not based on criteria that
24 epidemiologists use to determine an association or
25 relationship.

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1 Q. What is that criteria that an
2 epidemiologist would utilize relative to opining
3 that there is an association between a chemical
4 and a disease?

5 A. Well, the data has to satisfy a number
6 of requirements. And that would include
7 significant -- you know, statistical significance
8 of the association. The association has to be
9 strong in terms of, you know, the measure of risk,
10 whether it's standardized mortality ratio or
11 relative risk.

12 Another criteria is, he need to have a
13 positive dose response relationship. In other
14 words, the higher the exposure, the higher the
15 risk of the disease.

16 And we also need to be specific in terms
17 of exposure, make sure that there is no confounding
18 or bias in the data.

19 The relationship also needs to be
20 consistent in terms of you should find similar
21 results from different studies insofar as
22 different locations.

23 THE REPORTER: A little louder,
24 Doctor.

25 A. I just said that the relationship had to
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1 be consistent in terms of studies performed in
2 different locations. And you also have to satisfy
3 certain latency requirements.

4 Those are the things that we need to
5 consider in determining whether there is a causal
6 relationship or not.

7 BY MR. HYDE:

8 Q. As it concerns the chemical butadiene,
9 what is your understanding relative to the latency
10 period from exposure to the onset of malignant
11 disease as reported by researchers such as
12 Genevieve Matanoski?

13 A. Well, it doesn't really apply, because I
14 do not think there is a relationship between
15 exposure and the disease. And that being the
16 case, you know, it's not proper to label a
17 latency. Latency is when you have determined that
18 there is a relationship between exposure and a
19 disease. But in this case I do not think that
20 part has been established.

21 MS. ARRAS: I'd like to just
22 clarify something for the record here.
23 Keith, are we talking -- I thought your
24 last question was about malignancy in
25 general as opposed to specifically
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1 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Is that -

2 MR. HYDE: Malignancy in general.

3 MS. ARRAS: Okay. I just wanted

4 to clarify that in my own mind.

5 BY MR. HYDE:

6 Q. Assume, Doctor, that butadiene does

7 cause non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Would there be

8 anything about the latency period between any of

9 the four Plaintiffs' exposure in this case and the

10 ultimate diagnosis of disease that you would find

11 incorrect as an epidemiologist?

12 A. Even assuming that, I would not be able

13 to give you an answer today for a number of

14 reasons. I do not know at this point exactly when

15 the first exposure to butadiene occurred in each

16 of the Plaintiffs. And I need that information.

17 It may be in the materials that the attorneys have

18 provided to me. But I did not look for that

19 information when I formed my opinion.

20 Number two, I need to go back to some of

21 the butadiene studies and look at what kind of

22 latencies those studies would have, assuming that

23 there is a relationship.

24 So, I haven't done neither one of those

25 things. So, I cannot give you an answer today.

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1 Q. Okay. Now, as it concerns -- you
2 indicated first exposure. Is it also important
3 that that last exposure be considered relative to
4 latency period and the onset of malignant disease?

5 A. In general, I would say no, because
6 "latency" in epidemiology is defined as the time
7 between first exposure and appearance of a
8 disease, the first symptom of a disease or
9 subsequent death of -- due to that disease.

10 MS. ARRAS: Dr. Wong, we missed a
11 part there. You said it was the time
12 between first exposure and -

13 THE WITNESS: The appearance or
14 symptoms or a disease -

15 MS. ARRAS: Okay.

16 MS. ARRAS: -- or subsequent death
17 due to that disease.

18 BY MR. HYDE:

19 Q. What do you typically find as it
20 concerns a latency period as it relates to
21 exposure to benzene and ultimate causation of
22 malignant disease such as AML? What do you
23 consider the appropriate latency period?

24 MR. McCALL: Benzene and AML?

25 MR. HYDE: Yes.

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1 A. There is another thing we need to
2 consider. And that is how high the exposure was.
3 In general, there is an inverse relationship
4 between the level of exposure and the duration or
5 the length of latency. In other words, the higher
6 the exposure, the shorter the latency. And the
7 reverse is also true. Given very low exposure of
8 a carcinogen, the latency would be very, very long.
9 In this country, among chemical workers,
10 latency between AML and exposure to benzene, I
11 would say, would be around 20-some years.

12 BY MR. HYDE:

13 Q. Have you seen any epidemiological
14 studies that would indicate an increased incidence
15 of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in a work force that was
16 was exposed to butadiene?

17 MR. McCALL: Let me object to the
18 form of the question without further
19 elaboration of "increased incidence" -

20 BY MR. HYDE:

21 Q. You may answer -

22 MR. McCALL: -- as being vague.

23 A. Did you say "incidence"?

24 BY MR. HYDE:

25 Q Yes.

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1 A. I'm not aware of any study that would
'2 actually look at incidence of non-Hodgkin's
3 lymphoma at all.

4 Q. Are you aware of any epidemiologic study
5 that would indicate an increased risk of
6 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma from workers exposed to
7 1,3-butadiene?

8 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
9 the form.

10 A. When you say "increased risk-," how do
11 you measure that? In terms of mortality, in terms
12 of morbidity, in terms of incidence, or what?

13 BY MR. HYDE:

14 Q. Any one of those, mortality, morbidity,
15 or incidence.

16 A. Okay. There are couple of mortality
17 studies on workers exposed to butadiene. And some
18 of those studies have found isolated increases of
19 mortality due to certain components of
20 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

21 Q. What are the names of those studies?

22 A. Give me a minute and let me look at my
23 file.

24 I am looking at a paper written by
25 Jerry Ott. It should be-in the folder labeled
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1 "Butadienen in the exhibit.

'2 Q. Other than Dr. Ott's study, are there
3 any other studies that would indicate an increased
4 mortality from workers exposed to 1,3-butadiene?

5 A. Let me clarify that -

6 MS. ARRAS: Just a moment. I'd

'7 like to object. You mean mortality in
8 terms of all deaths? That's what you're
9 saying, from all causes in workers
10 exposed to butadiene? .

11 BY MR. HYDE:

12 Q. And let me limit that question -- and let
13 me start over.

14 Are there any other studies, other than
15 Dr. Ott's, that indicate an increased mortality in
16 workers from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma who were
17 exposed to the chemical 1,3-butadiene?

18 A. Well, let me clarify that first. The
19 paper that I just referred you to by Dr. Ott is
20 not a study done by Dr. Ott. Dr. Ott wrote a
21 review article, a very in-depth analysis of the
22 data out in the literature. So, it's not a study,
23 per se. I just want to clarify that point.

24 Q. Okay. Can you now answer my question,
25 though? Are there any studies that you kn-ow of
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1 that indicate an increased mortality as a result
2 of individuals acquiring the disease non-Hodgkin's
3 lymphoma wherein those workers were exposed to the
4 chemical 1,3-butadiene?

5 A. Given that the article by Ott is not a
6 study itself, but rather a summary of all the
7 studies out there, I don't think your question is
8 appropriate, and I cannot answer your question,
9 because that paper by Ott includes all the studies
10 already.

11 Q. Well -- and I'm asking you, which of the
12 studies that were reviewed by Dr. Ott found an
13 increased incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in
14 workers exposed to the chemical 1,3-butadiene?

15 MS. ARRAS: Keith, are you asking
16 him to review the article and tell you
17 right now, or else testify from his own
18 recollection as to the individual
19 references in the Ott paper?

20 MR. HYDE: Whatever he's capable
21 of doing.

22 A. There are three studies included in
23 Dr. Ott's article. And out of the three, the
24 study done by Dr. Divine indicates that
25 lymphosarcoma -- there was an increase of
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1 lymphosarcoma. That is part of the non-Hodgkin's
2 lymphoma.

3 On the other hand, the second component
4 of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and that is under the
5 category of other lymphatic tissue cancer. There
6 was no increase.

7 So, all I can answer at this point is,
8 Dr. Divine found an increase in part of the
9 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in her study.

10 BY MR. HYDE:

11 Q. Did Dr. Matanoski, in any of the studies
12 that she coordinated or conducted, find an
13 increased incidence of workers with non-Hodgkin's
14 lymphoma for those workers exposed to
15 1,3-butadiene?

16 MS. ARRAS: We object to the form
17 in the sense that there's no foundation
18 laid as to who Dr. Matanoski is. I
19 don't know that we've established that
20 Dr. Wong, on the record, knows
21 Dr. Matanoski or of her work.

22 BY MR. HYDE:

23 Q. You may answer, Doctor.

24 A. Well, I am looking at Dr. Ott's
25 article. I have it in front of me. And I am
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1 looking at a table summarizing all the results of
2 different studies, including Dr. Matanoski's. And
3 based on that table, I don't see any increase of
4 lymphosarcoma. There was a very small,
5 non-significant increase of other lymphatic tissue
6 cancer. But that is not of any significance at
7 all.

8 Q. Do you know Dr. Ott?

9 A. Do I know him?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. How do you know him?

13 A. He is an epidemiologist. I am an
14 epidemiologist. And we run into each other quite
15 often at meetings. He used to work for Dow
16 Chemical, as well as Union Carbide. And I'm sure
17 did some studies that I have done for the Chemical
18 Manufacturers Association that either Dow or Union
19 Carbide might have been participants in those
20 studies. And I might have run into him at some of
21 those meetings.

22 Q. As we sit here today, as an
23 epidemiologist, do you consider 1,3-butadiene to
24 be a carcinogen?

25 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
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1 the form. Do you mean in humans?

2 BY MR. HYDE:

3 Q. You may answer.

4 MR. McCALL: Object to the form as
5 vague.

6 A. You mean humans?

7 BY MR. HYDE:

8 Q. Okay. As an epidemiologist, do you
9 consider 1,3-butadiene to be a human carcinogen?

10 A. Not based on the data we have at hand.

11 Q. Then I take it you disagree with IARC
12 relative to their classification of butadiene as a
13 probable human carcinogen?

14 A. I haven't looked at IARC's conclusion;
15 so I cannot answer your question.

16 Q. Are you familiar with the Collegium
17 Ramazzini?

18 A. I've heard about that. I have heard
19 about that.

20 Q. Of course, you know who Dr. Selikoff is?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Are you aware that the Collegium
23 Ramazzini has indicated that butadiene is a strong
24 carcinogen in humans?

25 A. I don't.

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1 Q. Do you know whether or not OSHA
2 considers 1,3-butadiene to be a human carcinogen?

3 MR. McCALL: Counsel, we're
4 talking about today?

5 MR. HYDE: Today.

6 A. I don't know what OSHA thinks about the
7 chemical.

8 BY MR. HYDE:

9 Q. Did Mr. Lilly have a family history of
10 cancer? _

11 A. Not that I'm aware of.

12 Q. Do you consider Mr. Lilly's family
13 history, if he had one, of any significance
14 relative to his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma -- family
15 history cancer, that is, if he had one?

16 A. Yes. There have been studies indicating
17 a relationship between family history of cancer
18 and an increased risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

19 Q. What are the names of those studies?

20 A. The study done by Cartwright in 1988.

21 And also a project done by Dr. McDonald in 1987.

22 Q. Were there any other risk factors that
23 you identified relative to Mr. Lilly and his
24 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

25 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
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1 that form as being vague.

2 MR. McCALL: Right.

3 A. Could you repeat a question one more
4 time?

5 BY MR. HYDE:

6 Q. Sure. Have you identified any other
7 other risk factors for Mr. Lilly relative to the
8 causation of his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, other
9 than what you have already spoken about?

10 A. I'm confused, because I said that as of
11 now, I'm not aware of any family history of cancer
12 in his case. And your question is, "Is there any
13 other risk factors?" Are you implying -- are you
14 telling me that he has a family history of
15 cancer -

16 Q. No.

17 A. -- because -

18 Q. Let me rephrase that. Do you know of
19 any risk factors that Mr. Lilly has that may have
20 caused his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

21 A. Two come into my mind right now. One is
22 smoking, cigarette smoking. And the other one is
23 his exposure to a farm or working on a farm.

24 Q. How long did little Mr. Lilly work on a
25 farm?

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1 A. I don't recall at this minute.

2 According to the notes that I have, he grew up on
3 a farm; and he also worked on a farm, as well.

4 But I don't know exactly how long at this point.

5 I may have to go back and retrieve that
6 information to answer your question.

7 Q. What type of products were raised on the
8 farm or farms where Mr. Lilly worked?

9 MR. McCALL: You mean crops?

10 BY MR. HYDE:

11 Q. Crops.

12 A. I don't recall the details at this
13 point.

14 Q. Do you know whether or not Mr. Lilly
15 ever. used any pesticides or herbicides relative to
16 any of the farm work he may have performed?

17 A. I don't know at this point.

18 Q. Can you say here today that more
19 probably than not Mr. Lilly's farm work was a
20 cause or a contributing cause of his non-Hodgkin's
21 lymphoma?

22 A. Certainly it's a risk factor. I cannot
23 quantify, you know, the probability of causation
24 at this point.

25 Q. Are you saying that his farm work
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1 contributed more probably than not to the
2 causation of his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

3 A. I guess I have to ask you what you mean
4 by "more likely than not." What does that mean?

5 Q. Over 50 percent sure. Are you over
6 50 percent sure that Mr. Lilly's farming work
7 caused or contributed to causing his non-Hodgkin's
8 lymphoma?

9 A. I haven't -

10 MR. McCALL: At the present time?

11 A. I haven't done any detailed calculation
12 in terms of his probability of causation due to
13 farming. So, I cannot answer your question. All
14 I can tell you today is, farming would be a risk
15 factor in his case.

16 BY MR. HYDE:

17 Q. Can you say more probably than not -

18 A. I already told you, I cannot do that
19 today.

20 Q. Well, I'm talking on a different subject
21 now.

22 Can you say more probably than not that
23 Mr. Lilly's cigarette smoking caused or
24 contributed to causing his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

25 A. I would say yes, given that there is a
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1 very strong risk associated with cigarette smoking
2 and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. I would say yes. And
3 given his very heavy smoking history.

4 Q. What is your understanding of his
5 smoking history? Can you give me a pack-year?

6 A. I cannot give you a pack-year. I can
7 give a range. Based on the information I have,
8 his history was anywhere between 79 to 106
9 pack-years. He started smoking when he was age
10 14 and continued to 67 year old. _

11 Q. The fact that Mr. Lilly is a black man,
12 would you consider that to be a risk factor
13 relative to his development of non-Hodgkin's
14 lymphoma?

15 A. I'm not so sure I understand your
16 question.

17 Q. Does race play any role as a risk factor
18 in Mr. Lilly's development of non-Hodgkin's
19 lymphoma?

20 MR. McCALL: Again, Keith, you're
21 asking his opinion as an epidemiologist?

22 MR. HYDE: Yes.

23 A. I guess I still don't quite understand
24 your question. Just being alive, you know, is a
25 risk factor for developing different kinds of
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1 diseases. But if you ask me whether -- based on
2 vital status of this country, whether blacks have
3 a higher risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or not,
4 the answer is no, because both black and white
5 have more or less the same risks.

6 Have I answered your question?

7 BY MR. HYDE:

8 Q. Yes.

9 And what is your understanding of
10 Mr. Lilly's diagnosis? What is the disease he
11 has?

12 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
13 the form. You mean, what disease does
14 Dr. Wong believe that Mr. Lilly has?

15 BY MR. HYDE:

16 Q. Okay. Let me rephrase it. What disease
17 do you believe that Mr. Lilly has?

18 A. Based on the information provided to me,
19 my understanding is that he has T-cell
20 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

21 Q. What is your understanding of
22 Mr. Talbott's disease? What's the diagnosis?

23 A. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma,
24 well-differentiated diffuse lymphoma.

25 Q. What is your understanding as to the
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1 diagnosis of Mr. LeBlanc?

2 A. Poorly differentiated diffuse lymphoma.

3 Q. What is your understanding as to

4 Mr. Ellis' diagnosis?

5 A. Well-differentiated diffuse lymphoma.

6 Q. And certainly as an epidemiologist, you

7 have no reason to question any of these diagnoses;

8 am I right?

9 A. I said no. Well, you asked a double

10 negative question, I think. Maybe you. can ask

11 me -

12 Q. Okay. I'm going to ask the question

13 again because, evidently, we didn't hear you say

14 you say "no." And then I said, "Is that correct?"

15 And that would make it a double negative. So,

16 let's start it over one more time.

17 As an epidemiologist, do you have any

18 reason to disagree with any of the diagnoses

19 associated with the four Plaintiffs?

20 A. No, I do not.

21 Q. What is your understanding of

22 Mr. Talbott's occupation?

23 A. He worked as a pipe fitter, as well as a

24 welder.

25 Q. Do you know what a pipe fitter does in a

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1 refinery, those kinds of tasks that he would
2 perform?

3 A. I would say think to replace all kinds
4 of pipes, you know, rip out insulation material,
5 go over the old pipes or fix it, and put the
6 insulation back on again.

7 Q. And what assumptions did you make
8 relative to Mr. Talbott's benzene exposure during
9 the time period when Mr. Talbott was a pipe fitter
10 or a welder?

11 A. Well, again, my assumption is that his
12 exposure would be similar to maintenance people in
13 the industry.

14 Q. So, it's going to be your assumption
15 that Mr. Talbott would have the same level of
16 benzene exposure as a pipe fitter at Exxon or
17 Shell; is that correct?

18 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
19 the form in the sense that he didn't say
20 "same," he said it would be similar -

21 MR. McCALL: To the industry.

22 MS. ARRAS: -- to the industry.

23 A. I cannot -- I don't think it's
24 appropriate to identify two specific companies.

25 What I have done is -- you know, I assume that his
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1 exposure would be similar to maintenance people in
2 the entire industry.

3 BY MR. HYDE:

4 Q. But you have no information that would
5 indicate that the Cities Service refinery and the
6 respective exposures to pipe fitters at that
7 facility would in any way be the same as pipe
8 fitters throughout the refining industry?

9 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
10 the form because you haven't quantified
11 or stated what the exposure would be to.

12 BY MR. HYDE:

13 Q. To benzene.

14 A. I do not have specific information to
15 indicate whether you would be similar or you would
16 not be similar. But based on my experience in the
17 industry -- you know, I have done quite a few
18 studies at different refineries -- I would say that
19 overall, there may be some small differences. But
20 in general, the order of magnitude of exposure
21 would be the same across the industry.

22 Q. If Mr. Talbott used benzene to clean his
23 work tools at the Cities Service refinery -- or
24 rather, I want you to assume this with me. And
25 let me start over.

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1 Assume that Mr. Talbott used benzene to
2 wash his tools at the Cities Service refinery,
3 could that have led to a different level of
4 benzene exposure as compared to a pipe fitter at
5 Exxon wherein those pipe fitters would not have
6 been allowed to use benzene to clean their tools?
7 Do you see any difference in the, the exposure
8 levels.

9 MR. McCALL: Dr. Wong, let me
10 object to the form of the question
11 insofar as the hypothetical. The
12 foundation for the assumption in the
13 hypothetical has not been established
14 into evidence, and we object to it.

15 MS. ARRAS: I object -

16 MR. McCALL: I further add, what
17 the level of benzene was, whether it
18 was -- what amount or quantification of
19 benzene was in your assumption, Counsel,
20 was being used to wash tools, I think
21 that's vague and objectionable also as
22 to form.

23 BY MR. HYDE:

24 Q. You may answer the question, Dr. Wong.

25 A. Did they object to it?

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1 Q. Yeah, they objected. But you can't.

2 A. Again, I think your question is more
3 specific than what I have told you. I did not say
4 that -- I did not use Exxon in my assumption. I
5 said that his exposure would be similar to
6 maintenance people in the industry, overall.

7 ` If you can rephrase the question without
8 making a reference to a specific company, then
9 maybe I can answer your question.

10 Q. Assume that other refineries. did not let
11 their employees wash their tools with benzene.
12 And assume that Mr. Talbott washed his tools with
13 benzene at the Cities Service refinery. Do you
14 see any difference in the level of exposure to
15 benzene based on the information I just gave you?

16 MR. McCALL: Same objection.

17 A. You want me to assume that at other
18 refineries, people do not -- employees do not wash
19 their tools with benzene?

20 BY MR. HYDE:

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. You want me to assume that?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. Well, number one, I want to tell you,
25 that is a very unrealistic assumption. But if it
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1 does, then, in general, if you compare someone who
2 washed tools with benzene to someone who does not
3 do that, I would assume that there would be some
4 additional exposure in the first case through the
5 dermal route.

6 Q. Wouldn't there also be an increased
7 exposure through inhalation as it pertains to
8 benzene exposure?

9 A. Everything being equal, there may be
10 some, yes.

11 Q. Did you participate in any API
12 epidemiological study wherein Sloan-Kettering
13 participated in that same study?

14 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object.

15 You haven't established who
16 Sloan-Kettering is.

17 A. I'm not sure I understand your question.

18 BY MR. HYDE:

19 Q. Have you ever participated in any API
20 study wherein in the Sloan-Kettering Laboratory
21 also participated?

22 A. I still don't understand your question.

23 You mean, I worked with Sloan-Kettering in a study
24 sponsored by API?

25 Q. Yes.

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1 A. No, I have never worked with
2 Sloan-Kettering.

3 Q. Are you familiar with any API
4 epidemiological study conducted by
5 Sloan-Kettering?

6 A. I'm aware of one -- I don't know whether
7 you would call it a study or not -- but one program
8 sponsored by API, run by the Memorial
9 Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

10 Q. Do you know whether the Cities Service
11 facility in Calcasieu Parish participated in that
12 study?

13 A. There was a large number of participants
14 in that program. And I don't know whether Cities
15 Service was in there or not. I cannot answer that
16 question.

17 Q. Would you recommend as an epidemiologist
18 that a company such as Cities Service participate
19 in epidemiological studies where possible?

20 MR. McCALL: Let me object to the
21 form of the question, Keith, insofar
22 as -- I think you're going beyond the
23 scope of this man's testimony that is
24 going to be produced at trial.

25

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1 BY MR. HYDE:

2 Q. You may answer.

3 A. I think it's too general a question to
4 give you any meaningful answer. We've got to know
5 what kind of concern, you know, Cities Service may
6 or may not have and whether they have any
7 suggestion or indication based on the literature
8 out there, that whether the chemicals, you know,
9 that Cities Service has would or would not pose
10 any hazards. I mean, I just cannot answer your
11 general question.

12 BY MR. HYDE:

13 Q. Well, obviously, you know that benzene
14 was present at the Cities Service refinery in some
15 concentrations ever since that refinery was
16 built. You will agree with that, won't you?

17 A. There would be some -- I assume, you
18 know, there would be some benzene there, yes.

19 Q. And if there was benzene at the Cities
20 Service refinery since the 1940's and fifties and
21 people were possibly exposed to that benzene,
22 wouldn't you agree with me that it's a prudent
23 practice for that company to participate in
24 epidemiological studies whenever it's possible?

25 MR. McCALL: Let me object to the
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1 form of the question. Again, you're
2 calling for -- I think it gets into the
3 medical area and occupational medicine
4 beyond the expertise of this witness,
5 and it's objectionable as to form.

6 MS. ARRAS: I'm also objecting as
7 to the time period in that you're
8 suggesting that in the forties and
9 fifties is the time that the benzene was
10 first used, under your hypothetical, at
11 that facility, that they should have
12 participated in epidemiological
13 studies.

14 BY MR. HYDE:

15 Q. You can answer the question.

16 A. Well, I'm not so sure that in the
17 forties or fifties that we knew benzene would
18 cause AML.

19 Q. Well, my question was, if they knew
20 that -- if Cities Service knew that in the forties
21 and fifties benzene was present and they had the
22 capability of participating in an epidemiological
23 study in the late seventies, shouldn't Cities
24 Service have participated in that study?

25 MR. McCALL: Objection, again, as
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1 to form of the question. It's assuming
2 facts that's not in evidence, your facts
3 for your hypothetical, Keith, until
4 they're established. You say that they
5 knew. And I object to that.

6 BY MR. HYDE:

7 Q. You can answer the question.

8 A. I don't have enough information to
9 answer your question. You know, even if you want
10 to do a study, you know, anywhere, you've got to
11 look at what kind of records you have to see
12 whether you have sufficient data to participate in
13 the study. It's not something that someone can
14 say, "Yes, I want to participate in the study"
15 and, therefore, you are in the study. You have to
16 go through some kind of a data quality assessment,
17 or what we call feasibility analysis, just to look
18 at what kind of data you have, see whether it's
19 meaningful to participate in the study or not.
20 So, I think you are somewhat
21 over-simplifying the issue.

22 Q. So, what you're telling me is that they
23 need to do a study to determine if they need to
24 participate in a study; is that right

25 A. I don't-know whether you need to do a
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1 study or not. Sometimes you -- it's very simple
2 to go look at your records and say, say, "We just
3 have no data to contribute to such a study." In
4 other cases, you may have to hire an epidemiologist
5 to come in and look at your data. So, the
6 situation is, you know, very different from case
7 to case.

8 Q. Have you seen any indication that Cities
9 Service ever employed an epidemiologist, either as
10 an employee or as a consultant contractor?

11 MR. McCALL: Are we talking about
12 Cities Service Lake Charles operations,
13 Keith, or Cities Service Company in
14 general?

15 MR. HYDE: Either one.

16 A. I don't have any information to answer
17 your question.

18 BY MR. HYDE:

19 Q. Have you reviewed any of the mortality
20 or morbidity statistics associated with the Cities
21 Service refinery located in Calcasieu Parish?

22 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
23 an assumption that that data exists for
24 him to review.

25 A. Not that I know of.

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1 BY MR. HYDE:

2 Q. If that data, being morbidity and
3 mortality information, does exist, is that
4 information the type of information that you would
5 like to have relative to the formations of your
6 opinions in this matter?

7 'A. If there is such information, of course,
8 I would like to take a look.

9 Q. Have you asked the attorneys whether or
10 not any morbidity or mortality statistics exist?

11 A. I have not asked that.

12 Q. Why didn't you ask them?

13 A. Well, the petroleum industry -- you know,
14 the health community of the petroleum industry is
15 rather small. If Cities Service had sponsored a
16 study, I would think that I would know about it.

17 Q. But if they have morbidity and mortality
18 statistics that have not ever before been analyzed
19 by an epidemiologist, wouldn't you like to see
20 that information before rendering an opinion in
21 this case?

22 A. I don't see how they can collect
23 meaningful morbidity or mortality statistics
24 without any help from the epidemiologists. I just
25 cannot envision that.

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1 Q. I want to try to group this next
2 question such that I don't have to ask 50 more
3 questions.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Would it be fair to say that as it
6 concerns Mistrs Talbott, LeBlanc, and Ellis, that
7 as to their respective benzene, butadiene, and
8 ethylene oxide exposures out at Calcasieu Parish,
9 you have no numerical data that you have relied
10 upon specifically for their exposures .to those
11 chemicals; is that correct?

12 MR. McCALL: Counsel, data out of
13 Calcasieu Parish is what you're saying?

14 MR. HYDE: Yes.

15 A. Your question is so are long that by the
16 time you get to the end of it, I lost track of the
17 first part. Would you please repeat it one more
18 time?

19 BY MR. HYDE:

20 Q. Okay. As it concerns Mr. Talbott,
21 Mr. LeBlanc, and Mr. Ellis, do you have any
22 specific exposure data indicating their exposure
23 levels to benzene, butadiene, or ethylene oxide?

24 A. No, I do not have specific information
25 on quantitative exposure of this -- of these
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1 Plaintiffs.

2 Q. What are you relying upon relative to
3 characterizing Misters Talbott's LeBlanc's, and
4 Ellis' exposure levels to benzene, butadiene, and
5 ethylene oxide?

6 A. Based on their job functions, based on
7 their job titles in their employment history.

8 Q. As we sit here today, can you give me
9 any of those exposure levels that you have assumed?

10 A. As I said, I cannot give you a
11 quantitative exposure level for any of these
12 Plaintiffs.

13 Q. What document can I look at or which
14 document can you refer me to that would represent
15 these individuals' exposures to benzene,
16 butadiene, and ethylene oxide?

17 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
18 the form of the question as being vague.

19 A. I'm not so sure I understand your
20 question.

21 BY MR. HYDE:

22 Q. Okay. What document can you refer me
23 to, or documents can you refer me to, that you
24 believe would reflect representative exposure
25 levels for the Plaintiffs relative to benzene,
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1 butadiene, or ethylene oxide?

2 MS. ARRAS: That's as clear as a
3 bell.

4 MS. ARRAS: What?

5 MR. McCALL: That question. It
6 was.

7 MS. ARRAS: It was a bell?

8 MR. HYDE: Clear as a bell.

9 MS. ARRAS: No, it wasn't clear as
10 a bell. I'm going to object because
11 when you say "represent their exposure
12 levels," you mean is that where you
13 would go to find information about their
14 exposure? I mean, what Dr. Wong relied
15 on -

16 MR. HYDE: I want to know -

17 MS. ARRAS: -- I don't know -

18 MR. HYDE: -- what documents he has
19 used to assume their exposure levels.

20 MS. ARRAS: That was not the
21 question.

22 MR. HYDE: That was the question.

23 MS. ARRAS: No.

24 A. I told you, I could not determine
25 exposure level, per se, of these individuals. All
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1 I can say is, their exposure would be similar to
2 maintenance people in the industry.

3 BY MR. HYDE:

4 Q. What risk factors have you identified
5 relative to causing Mr. Talbott's non-Hodgkin's
6 lymphoma?

7 MS. ARRAS: That hasn't been asked
8 and answered?

9 MR. HYDE: No.

10 A. For Talbott?

11 BY MR. HYDE:

12 Q. For Talbott.

13 A. He has some exposure to a farm or
14 farming because he grew up on a farm. He also
15 worked on farm, as well. So, I would say that's
16 one of the possibilities.

17 Q. Okay. Can you say more likely than not
18 that Mr. Talbott's work on a farm caused or
19 contributed to causing his non-Hodgkin's
20 lymphoma?

21 A. I don't have detailed information on how
22 long he was exposed to a farm or farming. So, at
23 this point I cannot answer your question.

24 Q. What other risk factors have you
25 identified for Mr. Talbott relative to his
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1 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

2 A. Well, smoking is another possibility.

3 Q. Okay. What is your understanding of

4 Mr. Talbott's smoking history?

5 A. He started smoking when he was 12 and

6 quit when he was 42.

7 Q. Do you have a pack-year history for him?

8 A. According to my notes, he had a history

9 of 15 pack-years.

10 Q. What is your opinion relative to

11 Mr. Talbott's smoking history, whether or not that

12 smoking history caused or contributed to causing

13 his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

14 A. Certainly it's a risk factor. I have

15 not determined, you know, how much weight I would

16 give to that smoking history.

17 Q. Can you say more probably than not that

18 his smoking caused his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

19 We're talking about Mr. Talbott.

20 MR. McCALL: At the present time?

21 A. I cannot give you an answer today.

22 BY MR. HYDE:

23 Q. Were there any other risk factors for

24 Mr. Talbott relative to his non-Hodgkin's

25 lymphoma?

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1 A. Just being alive, just being part of the
2 general population. Everyone would have
3 background risks of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. And,
4 also, age is a risk factor. I mean, that applies
5 to everybody.

6 Q. What risk factors have you identified
7 for Mr. LeBlanc relative to causing his
8 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

9 A. Again, he had some exposure to a farm,
10 although the information that I have at this point
11 is very sketchy. I don't even know whether he
12 grew up on a farm or not. But certainly he had
13 some exposure to a farm or farming. So, that
14 would be one of the risk factors.

15 The other one is his substantial smoking
16 history. He had a history of more than 43
17 pack-years. And, also, he started when he was
18 very young, age 16. Started smoking at age 16.
19 So, I would say those two would
20 definitely be risk factors for him.

21 Q. Any others, any other risk factors for
22 Mr. LeBlanc relative to his non-Hodgkin's
23 lymphoma?

24 A. There was some information on his
25 employment between 1951 and 1957 that he .did some
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1 sulphur pumping. And it depends on whether that
2 would have any ionizing radiation or not. That
3 may be another risk factor.

4 Q. What kind of pumping was that?

5 A. Sulphur.

6 Q. Do you consider radiation to be a risk
7 factor relative to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

8 A. Oh, yes. There are quite a few studies
9 linking ionizing radiation to an increased risk of
10 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. -

11 Q. Do you know the mechanism in the body of
12 how radiation affects the bone marrow or lymphatic
13 system which ultimately leads to non-Hodgkin's
14 lymphoma? Do you know that mechanism?

15 A. No, I don't.

16 Q. As we sit here today, can you say more
17 probably than not that Mr. LeBlanc's work pumping
18 sulphur was a cause or a contributing cause of his
19 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

20 A. I have not formed an opinion on that
21 issue yet simply because I do not know enough
22 about the exposure there.

23 Q. As we sit here today, can you say more
24 probably than not that Mr. LeBlanc's work on the
25 farm was a cause or contributing cause to his

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1 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

2 A. Well, definitely it's a risk factor.

3 But I cannot quantify that answer because at this
4 point I do not have sufficient information on his
5 exposure to a farm or farming.

6 Q. As we sit here today, can you say more
7 probably than not that Mr. LeBlanc's history of
8 smoking was a cause or a contributing cause to his
9 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

10 A. Well, given his very substantial smoking
11 history, I would definitely say that, at the
12 minimum, it would be a contributing factor.

13 Q. But as to farming and radiation, you
14 cannot say more probably than not that those two
15 activities contributed or caused his non-Hodgkin's
16 lymphoma?

17 A. I just do not have sufficient
18 information on exposures to those two at this
19 point to form a quantitative opinion.

20 Q. What information do you need?

21 A. I would like to know how high the
22 radiation was, if possible, to determine whether
23 there's a substantial exposure or not. And at
24 this point I do not even know how long he was
25 exposed to a farm or farming.

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1 Q. Without that information, you won't be
2 able to render an opinion relative to those two
3 risk factors and the causation of Mr. LeBlanc's
4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

5 A. No, that's not exactly what I said. I
6 said I cannot give you a quantitative opinion that
7 without any doubt those two would be risk factors.
8 I cannot quantify. I cannot give you a
9 probability of causation.

10 Q. What risk factors have you identified
11 relative to Mr. Ellis and his non-Hodgkin's
12 lymphoma?

13 A. Smoking, for sure.

14 (PAUSE)

15 THE WITNESS: Are you guys waiting
16 for me, or am I waiting -

17 MS. ARRAS: Yeah, we're waiting
18 for you -

19 MR. HYDE: Yeah, we're waiting for
20 you.

21 MS. ARRAS: -- to finish with the
22 question.

23 THE WITNESS: I was waiting for
24 you.

25 A. I said smoking would be one of the risk
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1 factors.

2 BY MR. HYDE:

3 Q. Are there any others?

4 A. I was waiting for that question.

5 Family history would be another.

6 Q. Excuse me?

7 A. Family history.

8 Q. What is your understanding of Mr. Ellis'

9 family's history of cancer?

10 A. His mother had cancer.

11 Q. What kind of cancer?

12 A. I do not know whether I have that

13 information, or I did not put down in my notes. I

14 may not have that information.

15 Q. Well, if Mr. Ellis' mother had breast

16 cancer, how would that affect your opinion

17 relative to Mr. Ellis' non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

18 A. It would, because based on

19 epidemiological study, it really doesn't matter

20 what kind of cancer. As long as there is a family

21 history of cancer, there is an increased risk.

22 Q. Okay. Now, what study document or

23 reference book would I find that would support the

24 statement you just gave relative to family history

25 of cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

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1 A. I think you asked this question early
2 this morning. But I'm happy to repeat it one more
3 time. And that would be the study done by
4 Cartwright in 1988. And the second one was done
5 by McDonald in 1987.

6 Q. Are there any other studies?

7 A. Those are the two that I rely on.

8 Q. Other than his mother possibly having
9 cancer, or had cancer, were there any other family
10 members of Mr. Ellis who had cancer? .

11 A. Not that I'm aware of.

12 Q. So, is it your opinion that just because
13 his mother may have had cancer, then that would
14 have been a cause or a contributing cause to his
15 acquisition of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

16 A. It would be at least a contributing
17 factor, yes.

18 Q. Can you say more probably than not that
19 Mr. Ellis' family history of cancer was a cause or
20 a contributing cause to his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

21 MR. McCALL: As we sit here today?

22 MR. HYDE: (Nodding)

23 A. I would say it's -- at a minimum, it
24 would be a contributing cause.

25

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1 BY MR. HYDE:

2 Q. And you can say that more probably than
3 not?

4 A. Oh, yeah.

5 Q. And that's based on knowledge that
6 possibly his mother may have had cancer?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are there any other facts that support
9 your opinion relative to Mr. Ellis' family history
10 of cancer?

11 A. Could you repeat the last question?

12 Q. Do you have any other facts that support
13 your opinion as to Mr. Ellis' family history of
14 cancer, other than his mother may have had cancer?

15 A. The two studies that I rely on? I
16 mean, that's -- I'm not so sure I understand your
17 question.

18 Q. Well, if it is shown that his mother
19 didn't have cancer, how would that affect your
20 opinion?

21 A. Family history would not play any role
22 in his case.

23 Q. Well, I guess, how do you know that his
24 mother had cancer?

25 A. That was based than information provided
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1 to me, documents provided to me.

2 Q. What is your understanding of his
3 smoking history?

4 A. He smoked between 60 to 90 pack-years,
5 and he started at age 18. So, that's a very, very
6 heavy history of smoking.

7 Q. Can you say more probably than not that
8 Mr. Ellis' smoking was a cause or a contributing
9 cause of his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

10 A. Given his heavy history of smoking, I
11 would say yes.

12 Q. Have you identified any other risk
13 factors associated with Mr. Ellis and his
14 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, other than smoking and
15 family history of cancer?

16 A. There was some information that he was
17 in Hiroshima in 1946 for just one day. And I
18 don't know what he was exposed to. I guess -- you
19 know, we are talking about radiation as a result
20 of the atomic bomb. I do not know the exact
21 timing, and I don't know what kind of -- what
22 level of ionizing radiation he was exposed to as a
23 result of his one day being there. But certainly
24 that would be a possibility.

25 Q. A possibility?

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1 A. Right.

2 Q. Can you say more probably than not that
3 Mr. Ellis' one day in 1946 in Hiroshima was a
4 cause or a contributing cause to his non-Hodgkin's
5 lymphoma?

6 A. I cannot give you an answer without
7 knowing how much exposure there was when he was
8 there.

9 Q. Any other risk factors associated with
10 Mr. Ellis and his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

11 A. No, other than, again, you know, being
12 part of a general population, you know, age and so
13 on, he would experience certain background level
14 risks.

15 Q. What is the incidence of non-Hodgkin's
16 lymphoma in the general population?

17 A. Did you say "incidence"?

18 Q. Morbidity, mortality, incidence,
19 whatever.

20 A. Okay. I don't have my hands on
21 incidence data right away. But I do have
22 information on mortality. Let me look.

23 MR. HYDE: Could you get me a fax
24 of whatever he's looking at?

25 A. I'm looking at the exhibit that I had
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1 prepared. How should I refer that here -- in
2 Exhibit 3A. There's some tables as some graphs
3 that I have. Do you want to look at that?

4 BY MR. HYDE:

5 Q. That's okay. I'll just -- I know that
6 it's there and the court reporter has it. In the
7 interest of time, I won't go thumbing through it.
8 But go ahead and tell me what the number is.

9 A. I'll give you an answer. In his age
10 group -- and that is, you know, around 60 years
11 old -- in this country I would say is around 20 per
12 100,000 people per year. A little bit over 20 per
13 100,000 per year.

14 MR. HYDE: Why don't we take a
15 five-minute break or a ten-minute break,
16 and we'll call you -- I guess we can call
17 him right back, in ten minutes?

18 MS. ARRAS: Okay. Is that all
19 right, Dr. Wong?

20 THE WITNESS: Yeah. So, we'll
21 hang up. And you guys will call again
22 after about ten minutes?

23 MR. HYDE: Right.

24 THE WITNESS: Okay.

25 (BRIEF RECESS)

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1 BY MR. HYDE:

2 Q. Dr. Wong, are you familiar with the
3 Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976?

4 A. No.

5 Q. "No"?

6 A. "No."

7 Q. I take it you have never heard of
8 Section 8(C) or 8(E) of that act, have you?

9 A. Section 8(E)?

10 Q. Or 8(C).

11 A. No.

12 Q. Now, do you have any opinion as to
13 whether any of the Plaintiffs who were working in
14 1948 or 1949 or 1950 at the Cities Service complex
15 in Calcasieu Parish, whether those individuals, I
16 think particularly Mr. Talbott and Mr. Lilly -
17 whether they were exposed to more benzene in 1948
18 as compared to the year 1949?

19 A. I don't have that specific information,
20 no.

21 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
22 butadiene can cause acute lymphocytic leukemia?

23 A. I have not looked into that for this
24 case.

25 Q. Well, do you have an opinion generally,
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1 as an epidemiologist?

2 A. Nobody else asked me that question
3 before.

4 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
5 benzene can cause chronic myelogenous leukemia?

6 MS. ARRAS: Benzene?

7 MR. HYDE: (Nodding)

8 A. What was the leukemia that you said?

9 BY MR. HYDE:

10 Q. CML, chronic myelogenous leukemia.

11 A. No, I have not looked at that, either.

12 Q. Do you have an opinion whether benzene
13 can cause chronic lymphocytic leukemia?

14 A. I'm sorry. Did you say -- let's go back
15 to the previous question. I think I misunderstood
16 your question. Would you please repeat it so that
17 I can give an answer on CML?

18 Q. Do you have an opinion as an
19 epidemiologist whether benzene can cause chronic
20 myelogenous leukemia?

21 A. Yes, I have an opinion. I'm sorry. I
22 misunderstood your question.

23 Q. What is your opinion?

24 A My opinion is there is no relationship
25 . between the two.

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1 Q. Just so we are certain -- I don't want to
2 miss one -- do you have an opinion as to whether
3 benzene can cause chronic lymphocytic leukemia?

4 A. Yes, I have an opinion.

5 Q. What is your opinion?

6 A. There is no relationship.

7 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
8 benzene can cause multiple myeloma?

9 A. That one I have not looked at.

10 Q. Do you have an opinion as to. whether
11 benzene can cause Hodgkin's lymphoma, or Hodgkin's
12 disease?

13 A. Hodgkin's disease? I have not looked at
14 that, either.

15 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
16 benzene can cause hairy-cell leukemia?

17 A. I'd have to go back and look at the ICD
18 coding to see what -

19 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
20 benzene can cause pancytopenia?

21 A. I haven't looked at that.

22 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
23 benzene can cause polycythemia vera?

24 A. I have not looked at that, either.

25 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether
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1 benzene can cause thrombocytopenia purpura?

2 A. I have not looked at that.

3 Q. Do you have an opinion whether benzene

4 can cause aplastic anemia?

5 A. I think there is some studies that

6 indicate at high enough level there is an

7 increased risk.

8 Q. Do you have an opinion whether benzene

9 can cause causes acute myelogenous leukemia?

10 A. Acute myelogenous leukemia

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. At high enough exposure and long enough

13 exposure, yes.

14 Q. Okay. What is high enough exposure?

15 A. I think we can combine the two,

16 intensity of exposure and duration of exposure

17 into something what we call cumulative exposure in

18 terms of ppm years. My opinion is that if the

19 exposure is higher than 60 ppm years, that would

20 be an increased risk of AML.

21 Q. Now, what reference can you point me to

22 that would support your opinion that an exposure

23 level of 60 ppm years -- or exposure history of

24 60 ppm years would cause an increased risk of

25 acquiring AML from benzene exposure?

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1 A. Dr. Rensky's study.

2 Q. Okay. What diseases do you associate
3 with exposure to ethylene oxide?

4 A. Can you be more specific than that?

5 Q. Okay. Well, do you have an opinion as
6 to whether ethylene oxide causes any malignant
7 diseases?

8 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object -

9 A. In the sense that it would increase the
10 risks -- _

11 BY MR. HYDE:

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. -- above and beyond the background risks?

14 Q. Yes.

15 MS. ARRAS: Let me object. This
16 is in human or animals or what?

17 MR. HYDE: Humans.

18 A. Are you referring the question to humans?

19 BY MR. HYDE:

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. Okay. There is no increased risk in any
22 malignancies that we can associate with ethylene
23 oxide exposure.

24 Q. During our first part of this
25 deposition, did you say that you had a study or a
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1 paper, something such as that, that indicated that
2 exposure to ethylene oxide resulted in an
3 increased incidence or mortality of non-Hodgkin's
4 lymphoma in your study population?

5 A. I know what you are referring to, but I
6 cannot agree with your statement because it's not
7 accurate. What I said was that in my study, I did
8 find a statistical increase of non-Hodgkin's
9 lymphoma in about half of the study, the male
10 members of the study, but not in female.

11 But I did not say that that was
12 associated with ethylene oxide, per se. Finding
13 an increase in a population is only part of the
14 overall risk identification or risk assessment
15 process.

16 When you look at the dose response
17 relationship, you don't find any. And, therefore,
18 I do not associate the statistical increase in
19 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the study with exposure
20 to ethylene oxide.

21 Q. What kind of work was involved in -- you
22 know, I'm talking about the work of the workers
23 who were studied as it concerns your ethylene
24 oxide, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma study. Was it
25 sterilization workers, something such as that?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And what was the relative risk or SMR or
3 whatever you used for that study? What was the
4 numerical number?

5 A. For what?

6 Q. For an increased incidence of
7 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

8 A. Well, I have calculated several SMR's
9 for different groups within the study. Which one
10 do you want?

11 Q. Give all of them to me that you can. I
12 mean, I don't have the study in front of me. I
13 mean, if you can summarize it, tell me how you've
14 done it, that would be fine.

15 A. Okay. Overall, for the entire study,
16 the SMR was one forty-one; and it was not
17 statistically significant. Among the males, the
18 SMR for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the study was
19 two forty-seven. And that was statistically
20 significant.

21 But on the other hand, for females in
22 that study, which account for more than 50 percent
23 of the population in the study, the non-Hodgkin's
24 lymphoma SMR was only thirty-one. And that was
25 very low.

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1 And, also, when we look at the data,
2 length of employment, we do not see any upward
3 trend. In other words, the longer the exposure -
4 let me start over again.

5 In other words, longer exposure was not
6 associated with a higher risk. And based on that,
7 as well as the consistency in the data between
8 male and female, I conclude that the significant
9 increase in male was not related to the
10 occupational exposure to ethylene oxide.

11 (DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD)

12 BY MR. HYDE:

13 Q. Dr. Wong, based on the SMR of
14 two forty-seven for male workers exposed to
15 ethylene oxide who developed non-Hodgkin's
16 lymphoma, what conclusions did you draw as a
17 result of those study results?

18 MS. ARRAS: With respect to what?

19 BY MR. HYDE:

20 Q. Let me start that over.

21 From the study where you found an SMR of
22 two forty-seven relative to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
23 and workers in the sterilization industry that you
24 studied, what conclusions did you draw relative to
25 the causation of the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma?

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1 MS. ARRAS: I am going to object
2 to the question on two bases; one, it
3 mischaracterizes or fails to state that
4 the 2.47 applied to males only. And,
5 secondly, it's vague, too general.

6 BY MR. HYDE:

7 Q. You can answer, Doctor.

8 A. As I said, when I looked at the entire
9 study, not just on -- not just looking at the
10 males, but both the males and the females, as well
11 as, most importantly, the dose response analysis,
12 I come to the conclusion that the statistical
13 increase in the male cannot be attributed to the
14 occupational exposure.

15 Q. What could it be contributed to, then?

16 A. I don't know at this point. In my paper
17 I make a number of suggestions. And one of them
18 is that perhaps some of those cases could have
19 been related to AIDS. That's certainly a
20 possibility, because we've only seen an increase
21 in the male, but not in the female. We know that
22 a lot of the AIDS patients will eventually die
23 from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

24 Now, I do not have specific information,
25 lifestyle information in my study. And,

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1 therefore, that would be only a suggestion.

2 Q. Who funded your study, this ethylene
3 oxide study?

4 A. The study was funded by the Health
5 Industry Manufacturers Association.

6 Q. So, these were manufacturers who
7 manufacture hospital equipment such as sterilizers
8 and such; is that correct?

9 A. No. Most of the members of that
10 association are health-care products companies.

11 Q. Such as --

12 A. Such as Johnson & Johnson, Upjohn -- you
13 know, companies that manufacture medical care
14 products.

15 Q. How much money did ENSR Health Sciences
16 or Applied -- your company, Applied Health
17 Services, how much did y'all receive for
18 conducting this study?

19 A. Oh, the study was done when I was at
20 ENSR Health Sciences. So personally, I did not,
21 and my company, Applied Health Sciences, have not
22 received any funding for that project because that
23 was done, was completed.

24 Q. How much did ENSR Health Sciences
25 receive?

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1 A. I think the overall budget over five or
2 six years would be around \$400,000 or so, in that
3 neighborhood.

4 Q. Do you know how IARC classifies ethylene
5 oxide --

6 MS. ARRAS: I'm going to object to
7 the form.

8 BY MR. HYDE:

9 Q. -- relative to its carcinogenicity?

10 A. No, I don't.

11 Q. Do you know whether or not OSHA
12 considers ethylene oxide to be a carcinogen?

13 A. I don't -

14 MS. ARRAS: Object to the form.

15 A. No.

16 BY MR. HYDE:

17 Q. You don't know?

18 A. No, I don't know.

19 Q. Do you know whether the EPA,
20 Environmental Protection Agency, considers
21 ethylene oxide to be a carcinogen?

22 A. I don't know, either.

23 MS. ARRAS: Object to the form.

24 BY MR. HYDE:

25 Q. You indicated that you're continuing
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1 work on the distribution workers study for the API
2 relative to distribution or products containing, I
3 guess, benzene or petroleum products. You're
4 still doing work, aren't you, in that project?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you presented your first draft of
7 that study in October?

8 A. I presented the preliminary analysis at
9 the International Symposium back in November, yes.

10 Q. And now, after presenting your
11 preliminary analysis, you're going back to rewrite
12 part of that paper; is that correct?

13 A. Well, at this point we do have a draft
14 report. And based on some of the questions raised
15 at the symposium, I'm doing some minor revision of
16 the report, you know, making things a little bit
17 clearer in places that it was not clear.

18 And at the same time, we are also doing
19 some additional analysis independent of the
20 symposium, you know. That was something that we
21 were prepared to do anyway, even before the
22 symposium.

23 Q. Have you been told to change that
24 report?

25 A. I'm not so sure I understand the
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1 question. Told by whom?

2 Q. By anyone at the API.

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Have you been pressured to change the
5 report at all by anyone from the API?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Or any member of the API?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Was that preliminary analysis and report
10 available to the public? We're talking about the
11 API study there.

12 A. I think the decision is API's and not
13 mine, because at this point, as I said, I have
14 submitted a draft report to API. And what kind of
15 release API wants to have of the report is API's
16 decision. Once when the report is finalized, then
17 I would think I would be able to send copies out,
18 you know, when people request that. But not at
19 this point, because I'm still working on the
20 revision of the report.

21 Q. How long ago did you complete this
22 preliminary analysis of the distribution workers
23 for the API?

24 A. Probably a few days before the
25 symposium. It was either the end of October or
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1 beginning of November.

2 Q. Obviously, you don't plan to testify as
3 to what units out at Cities Service complex did or
4 did not contain benzene, ethylene oxide, or
5 butadiene; am I correct?

6 A. Not to my understanding.

7 Q. Well, are you planning to testify as to
8 which units at the Cities Service complex
9 contained benzene, butadiene, or ethylene oxide?

10 MR. McCALL: Counsel, my
11 understanding, he's been given the
12 Culver reports. Independent of that
13 knowledge?

14 MR. HYDE: Yes.

15 MR. McCALL: I want to point that
16 out -

17 MR. HYDE: I want to know, is he
18 going to testify as to which units at
19 the Cities Service complex had benzene,
20 butadiene, or ethylene oxide?

21 MS. ARRAS: I'd also like to
22 qualify. You mean independent of
23 whether their names -- if it was a
24 butadiene unit, obviously, it would
25 contain butadiene. You mean something
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1 beyond that?

2 MR. HYDE: Yes.

3 MR. McCALL: He's not a process

4 engineer.

5 BY MR. HYDE:

6 Q. Are you there?

7 A. I don't believe I'm asked to do that.

8 (PAUSE)

9 A. Hello. Are you there?

10 MR. McCALL: Dr. Wong, he's

11 reviewing his notes right now. We're

12 still here. Bear with us for a second,

13 please.

14 BY MR. HYDE:

15 Q. Dr. Wong, do you plan on doing any more

16 work in this case prior to the trial that starts

17 on January 13th?

18 A. I would think so.

19 Q. What do you think you're going to do?

20 A. I probably will go back and look at some

21 of the materials, you know, some of things that

22 you raised, and probably try to organize my

23 thoughts, you know, how to, you know, present some

24 of the scientific information to the jury. And

25 also depends on whether the attorneys would send

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1 me additional materials to review or pose
2 additional questions for me to research.

3 MR. McCALL: Counsel, we'll
4 certainly notify you if Dr. Wong's
5 opinion as an epidemiologist on the lack
6 of medical causation between the
7 chemicals in this case and the NHL
8 changes in any way. We'll certainly
9 notify you of that and make it
10 available. _

11 MR. HYDE: Pass the witness.

12 MR. McCALL: No questions at this,
13 time, Dr. Wong.

14 THE WITNESS: That's it?

15 MS. ARRAS: That's it.

16 (DEPOSITION CONCLUDED AT 1:35 P.M.)

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