



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for
Occupational Safety & Health
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati OH 45226-1998
October 4, 1989
HETA 89-021

The Honorable Sherwood Guernsey
Massachusetts House of Representatives
152 North Street - Room 330
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Dear Representative Guernsey:

On September 25, I traveled to Baltimore, Maryland to observe a meeting concerning the case-control mortality study of workers at the General Electric facility in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The meeting involved members of the study advisory panel, General Electric management, Dr. David Wegman, and Dr. Sander Greenland. During the meeting, Dr. Greenland discussed the latency and epoch analysis recently completed. The form of the final report and the study recommendations were then discussed.

At this time, all of the the analyses to be included in the final report have been completed, a summary of the analytic results is being written by Dr. Greenland, and the principal investigators are reviewing the final draft of the executive summary. Dr. Wegman plans to deliver the final report to General Electric by the end of October. The document will then be distributed to the advisory panel members for their final review and comment. General Electric management will hold a final meeting with the advisory panel a few weeks afterwards in Baltimore, Maryland (tentative dates in November were discussed). An exact date for the public release of the report has not been set, but should occur sometime in December or early January.

Dr. Wegman and Mr. Hamilton of General Electric expressed an interest in having a NIOSH representative present when the study results are released to the public. After considerable discussion with my program supervisors, it was decided that this would be inappropriate. Dr. Wegman's study has been conducted under contract with General Electric. It has not included employee representation, nor will labor have an opportunity to review the results prior to public release. My involvement has been limited to observing the progress made over the past year and keeping you, and your constituents, advised. Our presence at a public meeting would be misinterpreted as our having played some larger role.

If you have any questions please call me at (513) 841-4386.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Sinks, Ph.D.
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