Northwestern University Medical School
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
W. G. KRUMMRICH STUDY

JUN 26 1986

June 21, 1986

Glen Martin
Office of Information Resource Management
Bureau of Data Management & Strategy
Health Care Finance Administration
Rm. GA2
6325 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21207

Dear Mr. Martin:

This letter is to inform you that the use of the Health Care Finance Administration (HCFA) data base was found to be both extremely useful in terms of its accuracy and completeness, but also critical in the Northwestern University study of workers exposed to chlorophenols, chlorophenoxy acids and their dioxin contaminants.

As you may recall, there were approximately 280 individuals from our original cohort of nearly 1,600 that we were not able to locate despite our intense efforts over a six month period. Among the tracing methods used before we contacted HCFA were: state and local vital records offices, motor vehicle searches in three states, a national retail credit bureau, city and reverse phone directories, a local retirement club, Monsanto data bases (pension, payroll, and mortality files), directory assistance, a local tracing team, and private investigation agencies.

To our surprise, only 20% of the individuals identified through HCFA were deceased. From the HCFA roster, we were able to recruit into the study 35% of the remaining alive difficult to find subjects.

The information derived from the workers identified through the HCFA data base was felt to be particularly critical to the project as this group of 280 consisted of aged individuals who were likely to have been employed in work situations (some of which may have contained unknown health hazards) prior to the implementation of any systematic Federal regulatory action directed at health and safety in the workplace.

We are truly grateful for the timeliness and helpfulness of you and Mr. Robert Butler in responding to our request for information.

The completeness of follow-up in our cohort, which was greatly enhanced through the HCFA data base, will enhance the validity of our findings.

Sincerely,

Warren H. Wallace, M.D.
Department of Medicine

WHW:adw
cc: Robert Butler

215 E. CHICAGO AVENUE, SUITE #801, CHICAGO, IL 60611 • (312) 908-737

DSW 476038.0825

STLCOPCB4042989