

Hello, HERS team

Please see below for I believe most of the information on my plate after our HERS conference call meeting Monday night.

1. Forwarded below are some of the files provided by my colleague, Dan Strasbaugh regarding the Libby site.

2. Here is a link on the PADOH website that includes data from the state's cancer registry (primarily this information is provided at the county level, although some information is also provided at the municipality level; note, statistical analysis/demographic adjustment of the data at that lower geographic levels is not provided, limiting interpretation of the significance of the raw numbers unless you have access to epi expertise to conduct those analyses). You can search either new cases/incidence or deaths/mortality for various time period through 2005 (the latest year of cancer data currently available in the registry - there is an ~ 2 year lag before data become available).

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?A=174&Q=236624>

For a national perspective, you might want to visit this website, which provides the official federal statistics on cancer incidence from state registries that have high-quality data and cancer mortality statistics for each year and 2002–2004 combined, as produced by CDC and the National Cancer Institute in collaboration with the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (note not all cancer types are included in this compilation):

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/>

3. I believe the most appropriate person at PADOH to contact regarding your request for a meeting regarding the in progress health outcome data review for the Borit site would be Dr. Steven Ostroff, Director, Bureau of Epidemiology, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Health and Welfare Building, 7th & Forster Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Dr. Ostroff oversees the bureau that includes both Dr. Mark White (principal investigator for the PADOH/ATSDR cooperative agreement program) and the state's cancer registry program.

4. Summary of health effects/diseases associated with asbestos exposure (largely from http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos/asbestos/health_effects/). If this summary does not fit the bill of what you were interested in Susan, please let me know and I will try again:

-- Asbestosis. Asbestosis is a serious, progressive, long-term disease of the lungs. Asbestosis is not a cancer. Inhaling asbestos fibers that irritate and inflame lung tissues, causing the lung tissues to scar, causes asbestosis.

-- Pleural Abnormalities. Persons with significant exposure to asbestos are at risk for developing various types of pleural (lining of the lungs) abnormalities. These abnormalities include pleural plaques, pleural thickening, pleural calcification, and pleural mesothelioma.

* Mesothelioma. Mesothelioma is a rare cancer which may affect the lining of the lungs (pleura) or the abdominal contents (peritoneum). Most mesotheliomas are caused by exposure to asbestos.

* Lung Cancer. Lung cancer is a malignant tumor that invades and obstructs the lung's air passages.

-- Nonrespiratory Cancers And Exposure to Asbestos. Studies show a strong link between respiratory cancers (cancers of the lung and mesothelioma) and exposure to asbestos in humans. However, epidemiologic studies do not clearly or consistently show a strong link between cancers at other sites and exposure to asbestos in humans. Some epidemiologic studies suggest an association between gastrointestinal and colorectal cancers and asbestos exposure. Very few studies suggest elevated rates of cancers of the kidney, brain, larynx, and bladder and asbestos exposure. Although some evidence suggests that exposure to asbestos also increases the risk of nonrespiratory cancers, the evidence remains weak, compared to that of lung cancer and mesothelioma.

5. I do not yet have the information on the WR Grace link to Ambler that we discussed, Michelle. That will take more time for me to research when I am actually in the office.

6. Despite my optimism on Monday, I have not been able to share the PADOH/ATSDR Health Consultation review of the 2006-2007 environmental data from Borit yet, but I hope very much to be able to do so tomorrow.

I will not be able to join you on the site visit tomorrow, but Dr. Karl Markiewicz, the senior toxicologist on my staff plans to attend.

Thanks, Lora

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Senior Regional Representative

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