

Subject: Federal Register 77:12, 1/19/2012
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:34:47 PM ET
From: Frances Lamberts
To: Lunn, Ruth (NIH/NIEHS) [E]

Dr. Ruth Lunn, Director
Office of the Report on Carcinogens
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Research Triangle Park, NC

Dear Dr. Lunn:

Noting the announcement in the Federal Register, regarding the institutes' efforts to study carcinogenic-substances effects, I wish to send you a citizen comment.

Looking around in our neighborhoods, communities, among family and friends, it seems clear that cancer is taking on epidemic proportions, striking far too many. Whether in stomach or colon, esophagus, breast, pancreas, liver or various other organ-and tissue cancers, the disease now affects most Americans at some point in their lives.

Synthetic substances -- pesticides and myriad other chemical agents -- now quite suffuse our everyday world, most of the materials that surround us, the food we take in as well as the very air and water. Yet the decades-long effort in the "war on cancer" has largely neglected their contributory or causal effects, choosing instead to focus on treatment and detection. Incidence of the disease has grown right along with this approach.

We should not continue to allow ourselves, involuntarily and unknowingly, to be victimized by substances that do harm to us, and harm even our children through reproductive-damaging properties. I therefore **thank** your agency for its efforts in studying the **environmental exposure factors**, helping prevention of the disease.

I note inclusion of **depleted uranium** in the list of substances nominated for study. This is one to which people in the area where I live have involuntary exposure: a facility manufacturing it is nearby and depleted-uranium residue has been documented in soil and river-sediment test samples from the facility's surroundings. Uranium's radiological and carcinogenic hazards are well known. For depleted uranium, various ill-health symptoms, birth defects and cancers have been reported among both civilians and soldiers where weapons containing it have been used in wars in the recent past. Therefore, inclusion of depleted uranium in your proposed-for-study substances is appropriate and welcome.

Again, as concerned citizen, I am encouraged that NIH institutes and other agencies are beginning to focus some research on the environmental-exposure aspects of carcinogens, making possible a wider, preventive approach to this calamitous disease. Such a shift in allocation of research expertise and resources has seemed to be long overdue.

Thank you for your efforts, and thank you for including depleted uranium among the substances to be studied.

Sincerely,
Frances Lamberts, Ed.D.,

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