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From: [redacted]@com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2007 8:42 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: IBM Worker Investigation

I worked for IBM for [redacted] years (starting in [redacted]) doing a number of different assignments, mostly in the assembly of machines.

You seem to focus your study on the micro electronics area. I believe if you also focus on the machine assembly area, mostly building 46, you'll find an even higher rate of cancer related victims, however most employees are dead now.

We were exposed to more trichloroethane (TCE), freon, and many other chemicals than the micro electronics area. Assembly people were required (by assembly procedures) to clean machines with TCE and other chemicals with no protection. We also cleaned up after our shift with the TCE, because that's the only thing that would get the dirt and ink off your skin. The only warnings we had were if the chemical was flammable.

You may want to include PCB into your study, the capacitors we used had PCB in them and exploded at initial power up regularly, meaning we had to replace that assembly now tainted with PCB's, not to mention the air we were breathing. IBM knew the exposure back then because if we built a machine for Japan, we were required to have non-PCB components in the machine shipped there. It wasn't uncommon for machines that came in for renovation to have leaking capacitors and when it became mandatory for non-PCB capacitors there was no procedure in place for safe handling, only a container to put the PCB capacitors in for special disposal.

I also know for a fact that IBM covered up our exposure, because in the 1980's building 46 and 41's wooden floors were replaced because of the chemicals being retained in the wood. The floor replacements were justified as building capital improvements and not listed as contaminated because of IBM's growing concern of the spill and contamination in Endicott.

I sat in meetings in the 80's that showed the number of gallons recovered were many times the amount they claim they lost. When asked why, it was admitted that there continued to be spillage from their property, but were unable to locate the source. After leaving IBM I never heard if they located the source. I guess the spill EIT got caught doing kind of proves they hadn't found the source either or didn't bother to locate it until they got caught.

I have had Testicular Cancer, however I also have Hypogammaglobulinemia (COMMON VARIABLE IMMUNODEFICIENCY). These are the first and only in my family history. It seems my Immune System is pretty much gone, uncommon so late in life, usually starts when you are born.

I also am convinced that not only the employee was in danger, but our families were also exposed to the same toxic chemicals.

When I came home my clothing and skin still had traces of these chemicals, my wife touched the clothing to wash, which probably contaminated all of our clothing. When I had physical contact with my wife, she probably was contaminate as well.

My wife's family had a mild history of relatives who passed away with heart attacks, as well as a few lung cancer deaths due to smoking, between the ages of sixty and seventy.

My wife's Grandmothers lived till ninety and one hundred, Grandfathers to seventy and eighty, mother died of a heart attack at sixty-seven, Father was eighty-six. My wife died of Ovarian Cancer at fifty-eight. My wife's passing might be normal, but she exercised regularly, ate healthy, had regular Doctor visits, pap smears and Mammograms, she never drank or smoked and had virtually no Cancer in her family history.

I don't jump to conclusions, but I do use common sense.

You do not have Bad Luck, it's developed.

In my case I think my problems and my wife's death were developed from IBM's negligence in this matter.