

**Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)**

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Will Congressmen Hinchey discuss IBM health study funding options today?

To:

Will Congressmen Hinchey discuss IBM health study funding options when he is in Binghamton today since the press conference was canceled due to snow a couple weeks ago?

Friday April 13, 2007

#### NEWS

Hinchey to speak on IBM cancer study

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070413/NEWS01/704130357/1001/ARCHIVE>

Federal push heats up battle over power line plan

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070427/NEWS01/704270333/1001>

Hinchey will be in Binghamton today to talk about steps he will take to block the Department of Energy's proposal.

Dr. Pinkerton of NIOSH recommended that WBESC Stakeholders may want to ask IBM and EIT to notify their current and former factory workers about the IBM health study and provide contact information so they have the opportunity to reply to NIOSH. I believe she also said the idea has already been recommended to IBM already by authorities but it seems they have not followed through with the suggestion. (It was nice of her to suggest this because I never would have thought of it)

Sounds a great idea. Does anyone know if there is any precedent or laws to require notification to the workers so they are aware? After all, This is a health issue. There may be no prior precedent since the proposed health study is somewhat unique and cutting edge according to what DEC and DOH officials were telling me last night.

Let's contact authorities to see if there is a legal basis to ensure some type of notification goes out to former and current workers. If not perhaps our political leaders may introduce some type of notification legislation. Should the Western Broome Environmental coalition a letter directly to IBM asking for this contact to current and former employees?

Also as discussed at the last meeting: The feasibility study took three years, We need to give the workers more than two months to comment) There may be some confusion in the public because of other ongoing coverage of other health issues that are similar: Plume residents. (Have the stakeholders formally requested an extension for the comment period yet?)

All it takes is one email to current employees and they would be notified in a few seconds at no expense. Mailings to former employees would incur some handling and postage. It seems like a reasonable request to me and small investment if it saves some lives.

## **OSHA Leaves Worker Safety in Hands of Industry:**

Since George W. Bush became president, OSHA has issued the fewest significant standards in its history, public health experts say. It has imposed only one major safety rule. The only significant health standard it issued was ordered by a federal court. The agency has killed dozens of existing and proposed regulations and delayed adopting others. For example, OSHA has repeatedly identified silica dust, which can cause lung cancer, and construction site noise as health hazards that warrant new safeguards for nearly three million workers, but it has yet to require them. "The people at OSHA have no interest in running a regulatory agency," said Dr. David Michaels, an occupational health expert at George Washington University who has written extensively about workplace safety. "If they ever knew how to issue regulations, they've forgotten. The concern about protecting workers has gone out the window." Agency officials defend their performance, saying that workplace deaths and injuries have declined during their tenure. They have been considering new standards and revising outdated ones that were unduly burdensome on businesses, they said, adding that they have moved cautiously on new rules because those require extensive scientific and economic analysis.

Read the entire article at: [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/25/washington/25osha.html?\\_r=1&hp&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/25/washington/25osha.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin)

My comments/activism for workplace safety improvements:

Scientists report chemicals used in the computer industry are more toxic than realized previously. Consequently this made it difficult for the medical community to link illnesses with workplace exposures historically. Industrial Hygienists now know better, but the dirty little secret is that Federal standards designed to protect workers from exposure use outdated guidelines set back in the 1960s and 70s. This robs the employer the opportunity to make improvements and gives a false sense of security to workers when safety inspections are based on outdated information: Passing an inspection does not necessarily indicate conditions are safe in the facility according to NY States own NIOSH safety inspector David Sylvan. Sadly this lack of awareness translates into lost opportunities for employers to make the upgrades that could result in improved health, lower health care costs, reduced workmen compensation rates, and innovative solutions: Support an IBM worker health study by emailing Dr. Lynne Pinkerton of NIOSH at [niocindocket@cdc.gov](mailto:niocindocket@cdc.gov) or access <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/103/> Or mail NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-34, Cincinnati, OHIO 45226

**I spoke with Dr. Clapp from Boston University school of public health yesterday and he confirmed that he will attend the next Western Broome Environmental meeting on May 29th to give a presentation in Endicott NY.** He commented that the progress Endicott has made so far is remarkable regarding the Feasibility study and political support. I sent him a copy of the Endicott report so he can make comments and helpful hints about the logistics of the proposed Endicott health study as well as report on his own prior study that demonstrated IBM workers death rate is significantly higher than the average rate) A study of the Endicott plant should be revealing considering it is one of the oldest plants in operation when working conditions were less favorable in decades past and workers would have had time to experience the long term effects of cancer and illness.

The Scientist : IBM cancer data published IBM fought the study's author, Richard Clapp, in court over his right to ... An unofficial organizing group for IBM workers also welcomed the publication. ...[www.the-scientist.com/news/display/25356/](http://www.the-scientist.com/news/display/25356/)  
[news @ nature.com - Study of cancer in IBM employees finally ...](http://www.nature.com/news/25356/) A paper suggesting that IBM factory workers are at higher risk of ... The study, by professor of environmental health Richard Clapp of the Boston University ...[www.nature.com/news/2006/061016/full/061016-13.html](http://www.nature.com/news/2006/061016/full/061016-13.html)  
<http://www.nature.com/news/2006/061016/full/061016-13.html>

Cancer fears persist among IBM workers - USATODAY.com IBM's Andrews says earlier research on more than 126000 IBM workers ... Clapp's study was based on mortality data of employees who worked for IBM from 1969 ...[www.usatoday.com/money/workplace/2006-11-26-ibm-workers-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/workplace/2006-11-26-ibm-workers-usat_x.htm)  
[http://www.usatoday.com/money/workplace/2006-11-26-ibm-workers-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/workplace/2006-11-26-ibm-workers-usat_x.htm)

Environmental Health | Full text | Mortality among US employees of ... This study sought to elucidate patterns of mortality in workers who were engaged ... the IBM Corporate Mortality File (CMF) maintained by the company had ...[www.ehjournal.net/content/5/1/30](http://www.ehjournal.net/content/5/1/30)  
<http://www.ehjournal.net/content/5/1/30>

Microsoft PowerPoint - WNA07.Ewaste.AMRC.ppt Mortality in IBM Workers,. 1969-2001. Richard W. Clapp, D.Sc., MPH. APHA Annual Meeting ... The study analyzes data collected by IBM itself on the ages and ...[www.no-burn.org/wna07/wna2007.presentations/WNA07.Ewaste.AMRC.pdf](http://www.no-burn.org/wna07/wna2007.presentations/WNA07.Ewaste.AMRC.pdf)  
<http://www.no-burn.org/wna07/wna2007.presentations/WNA07.Ewaste.AMRC.pdf>

Study of Cancers at IBM Is Released - WSJ.com

[online.wsj.com/article/SB116121488250697053.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB116121488250697053.html)  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB116121488250697053.html>

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH: Beset by Lawsuits, IBM Blocks a Study That ... The contested study--by epidemiologists Richard Clapp of Boston ... a large set of mortality records on people who worked for IBM over

a period of more

than ... [www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/sci;304/5673/937](http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/sci;304/5673/937) <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/sci;304/5673/937>  
 ScienceDaily: Increased Risk Of Cancer For Computer Factory ... The **study** reveals that **IBM factory workers** were more likely to have died of ... of **Clapp's** analysis indicate that there was increased **mortality** due to ... [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/10/061019094251.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/10/061019094251.htm) <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/10/061019094251.htm>  
 Daily Blog: **IBM Workers** And Cancer A **study** by **Dr. Richard Clapp** an epidemiologist at Boston University School of ... specifically details cancers and **mortality** rates among **IBM** employees. [http://workinglife.typepad.com/daily\\_blog/2006/10/ibm\\_workers\\_and.html](http://workinglife.typepad.com/daily_blog/2006/10/ibm_workers_and.html) [http://workinglife.typepad.com/daily\\_blog/2006/10/ibm\\_workers\\_and.html](http://workinglife.typepad.com/daily_blog/2006/10/ibm_workers_and.html)  
**IBM Cancer Study Shows Elevated Risk Among Workers** The **study's** author, **Richard Clapp** from the Boston University School of Public Health, analyzed 31941 deaths of **workers** who had been employed at **IBM** ... [www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/39450/IBM\\_Cancer\\_Study\\_Shows\\_Elevated\\_Risk\\_Among\\_Workers](http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/39450/IBM_Cancer_Study_Shows_Elevated_Risk_Among_Workers) [http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/39450/IBM\\_Cancer\\_Study\\_Shows\\_Elevated\\_Risk\\_Among\\_Workers](http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/39450/IBM_Cancer_Study_Shows_Elevated_Risk_Among_Workers)

NIOSH gets public input on IBM study <(Click here)

Two years ago a federal study found that people who lived in certain sections of Endicott had an increased rate of Testicular, Kidney, and Lung cancers. That area is adjacent to the former IBM plant. As News 10 Now's Aaron Goldstein tells us, federal officials want to determine whether the workers at the plant face similar illnesses.

[http://www.news10now.com/content/all\\_news/southern\\_tier/?SecID=383&ArID=102382](http://www.news10now.com/content/all_news/southern_tier/?SecID=383&ArID=102382)

## Cancer study may focus on IBM files

### Health officials' proposal would examine illness rate of workers at Endicott plant

By Tom Wilber

Press & Sun-Bulletin

ENDICOTT -- Federal health officials are proposing a \$3.1 million study delving into IBM personnel records to determine the cancer rate among 28,000 employees who might have been exposed to chemicals at the Endicott plant since the 1960s.

To read entire article:

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070328/NEWS01/703280331/1001>

### Here's sources:

2006 Health & Safety Make **OSHA** set mandatory **standards** for **chemical** exposures ... recommending limits for **chemical** exposures which were stricter than **OSHA's outdated standards**. ...

[www.uaw.org/hs/article/art06\\_04-2.cfm](http://www.uaw.org/hs/article/art06_04-2.cfm)

[http://www.uaw.org/hs/article/art06\\_04-2.cfm](http://www.uaw.org/hs/article/art06_04-2.cfm)

OSHA's Standardsetting **Outdated** Jeffress says **OSHA's** Standard-setting **Outdated**, Jeffress says : **OSHA's** task of setting ... Once **OSHA** releases its proposed **safety** and health programs standard next year, ...

[www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/32613/OSHA's\\_Standardsetting\\_Outdated\\_Jeffress\\_says.aspx](http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/32613/OSHA's_Standardsetting_Outdated_Jeffress_says.aspx)

[http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/32613/OSHA's\\_Standardsetting\\_Outdated\\_Jeffress\\_says.aspx](http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/32613/OSHA's_Standardsetting_Outdated_Jeffress_says.aspx)

**OSHA** Takes First Steps to Update National Consensus **Standards Chemical Safety** / Hazcom · Cold / Heat Stress ... This includes updating or revoking **outdated** consensus **standards** incorporated by reference, and updating ...

[www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/37305/OSHA\\_Takes\\_First\\_Steps\\_to\\_Update\\_National\\_Consensus\\_Standards\\_Chemical\\_Safety\\_Hazcom\\_Cold\\_Heat\\_Stress.aspx](http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/37305/OSHA_Takes_First_Steps_to_Update_National_Consensus_Standards_Chemical_Safety_Hazcom_Cold_Heat_Stress.aspx)

[http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/37305/OSHA\\_Takes\\_First\\_Steps\\_to\\_Update\\_National\\_Consensus\\_Standards\\_Chemical\\_Safety\\_Hazcom\\_Cold\\_Heat\\_Stress.aspx](http://www.occupationalhazards.com/News/Article/37305/OSHA_Takes_First_Steps_to_Update_National_Consensus_Standards_Chemical_Safety_Hazcom_Cold_Heat_Stress.aspx)

U.S **Chemical Safety** and Hazard Investigation Board Website - NEWS .... U.S. **Chemical Safety** Board

Investigators Conclude "Organizational and **Safety** ... The report found that when the PSM standard was created, **OSHA** had ...

[www.chemsafety.gov/index.cfm?folder=news\\_releases&page=news&NEWS\\_ID=355](http://www.chemsafety.gov/index.cfm?folder=news_releases&page=news&NEWS_ID=355)

[http://www.chemsafety.gov/index.cfm?folder=news\\_releases&page=news&NEWS\\_ID=355](http://www.chemsafety.gov/index.cfm?folder=news_releases&page=news&NEWS_ID=355)

NewsInfo Links - Archives Recent **Chemical Safety** Board News. Recent **OSHA** Rules, **Standards**, ... consensus **standards** and two references to industry **standards** that are **outdated**. ...

[www.lion.com/Reference\\_Library/Newsletter/Vol6Issue39.htm](http://www.lion.com/Reference_Library/Newsletter/Vol6Issue39.htm)

[http://www.lion.com/Reference\\_Library/Newsletter/Vol6Issue39.htm](http://www.lion.com/Reference_Library/Newsletter/Vol6Issue39.htm)

Printer-friendly article page **OSHA** has **outdated chemical** exposure guidelines so when test results come ... Over the past 35 years, **OSHA** has issued only about 30 new **chemical standards**, ...

[www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Date=20070105&Category=NEWS01&A...](http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Date=20070105&Category=NEWS01&A...)

[http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?](http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Date=20070105&Category=NEWS01&ArtNo=701050322&SectionCat=&Template=printart)

[Date=20070105&Category=NEWS01&ArtNo=701050322&SectionCat=&Template=printart](http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Date=20070105&Category=NEWS01&ArtNo=701050322&SectionCat=&Template=printart)

#416 - The Scientific Basis Of **Chemical Safety** -- Part 2 ... #416 - The Scientific Basis Of **Chemical Safety** -- Part 2: **Standards** That Kill. November 16, 1994. As we saw last week, Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) are air ...

[www.rachel.org/bulletin/pdf/Rachels\\_Environment\\_Health\\_News\\_709.pdf](http://www.rachel.org/bulletin/pdf/Rachels_Environment_Health_News_709.pdf)

[http://www.rachel.org/bulletin/pdf/Rachels\\_Environment\\_Health\\_News\\_709.pdf](http://www.rachel.org/bulletin/pdf/Rachels_Environment_Health_News_709.pdf)

NPN MarketPulse: U.S. **Chemical Safety** Board calls for **safety** ... The report found that when the PSM standard was created, **OSHA** had ... August 17, 2005 - The **Chemical Safety** Board issues its first-ever urgent **safety** ...

[www.npnweb.com/uploads/featurearticles/2007/npnMarketPulse/032107\\_mp2.asp](http://www.npnweb.com/uploads/featurearticles/2007/npnMarketPulse/032107_mp2.asp)

[http://www.npnweb.com/uploads/featurearticles/2007/npnMarketPulse/032107\\_mp2.asp](http://www.npnweb.com/uploads/featurearticles/2007/npnMarketPulse/032107_mp2.asp)

**OSHA** Quick Takes -- March 1, 2005 -- Volume 4, Issue 5 The rule was part of an agency effort announced last November to update **OSHA standards** that reference or include language taken directly from **outdated** ...

[www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qt03012005.html](http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qt03012005.html)

<http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/quicktakes/qt03012005.html>

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