

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)**From:****Sent:** Wednesday, June 27, 2007 8:37 AM**To:**

lupardd@assembly.state.ny.us; dan.lamb@mail.house.gov; NIOSH Docket Office (CDC);
 dennis.mccabe@oag.state.ny.us; dlindsey@co.broome.ny.us;
 ashafer@co.broome.ny.us; wmiller@co.broome.ny.us; gkolba@co.broome.ny.us;
 ddreynolds@co.broome.ny.us; anannery@co.broome.ny.us; vpasquale@co.broome.ny.us;
 thull@co.broome.ny.us; whoward@co.broome.ny.us; wwike@co.broome.ny.us;
 bbrunza@co.broome.ny.us; clinton@clinton.senate.gov; jkraham@co.broome.ny.us;
 dschofield@co.broome.ny.us; senator@schumer.senate.gov;
 Amanda_Pasquale@schumer.senate.gov; Laugostini@co.broome.ny.us;
 warnerr@assembly.state.ny.us

Subject: IBM workers' records pushed for TCE study Researcher cites worldwide interest B

IBM workers' records pushed for TCE study Researcher cites worldwide interest

By Tom Wilber*Press & Sun-Bulletin*

A Boston University professor who used IBM records to track cancer deaths among workers in San Jose, Calif., told Endicott residents Tuesday there is worldwide interest in a similar study proposed by federal officials for workers at the Endicott plant.

Richard Clapp, professor of environmental health and a national authority on chemical exposure, encouraged employees and advocates to work with scientists from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to develop the study.

The plan calls for using 28,000 IBM personnel records and cancer registry data to determine whether Endicott employees suffered disproportionately from cancer. The outcome could lead to knowledge necessary for safer manufacturing practices, Clapp said.

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070627/NEWS01/706270351/1001>

IBM Cancer Study Could Apply to Endicott

Dr. Richard Clapp, a professor from Boston University's School of Public Health, says former IBM employees working with a number of harmful chemicals have an elevated risk for cancer.

Clapp published a study involving manufacturing plants across the country including another IBM plant in San Jose, California, where he examined the cause of death of 33 thousand former employees.

"There are enough similarities in the kinds of chemicals that were used in those plants that we looked at and focused on that may shed light on what is learned here in the Endicott workers" said Clapp.

<http://www.wicz.com/news2005/viewarticle.asp?a=4085>

Expert speaks about IBM cancer study

Updated: 6/27/2007 6:32 AM

By: Karen Lee

Dr. Richard Clapp has been studying health effects in IBM workers for decades. "Studies like this, I've been involved with for 30 years, starting in the late 1970s. So, it's both as an academic and as a consultant that I've been doing this kind of research," he said. So, he seemed like the perfect guy to come to Endicott, where the community has been asking for a study on workers at the former IBM plant.

http://www.news10now.com/content/top_stories/default.asp?ArID=110607

IBM Endicott Workers Could Have Higher Cancer Risk



That's according to Dr. Richard Clapp.

He's a Boston University Professor of Public Health, and has investigated about half a dozen IBM facilities.

He was invited to present his findings here in Endicott.

His studies, show IBM factory workers that were exposed to chemicals, like TCE, have a higher risk of contracting cancers of the kidney, skin, brain and central nervous system.

<http://www.wbng.com/news/local/8196447.html>

TCE expert to meet with village residents

Richard Clapp, a professor at the Boston University School of Public Health and national authority on TCE exposure, is scheduled to meet with a citizens group Tuesday to offer his thoughts on a proposal by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to study cancer rates among IBM employees.

<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070625/COMMUN03/70625006>

A study conducted by researcher Dr. Richard Clapp, Boston University School professor of Public Health has demonstrated that IBM factory workers have a higher risk of contracting cancers of the kidney, skin, brain and central nervous system than the general population due to exposure of chemicals, metals and electromagnetic radiation in the workplace:

To read Dr. Clapps report online: Access <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/5/1/30>

Mounting evidence of cancer and higher mortality in workers exposed to solvents has resulted in the Semiconductor Industry Association conducting it's own study of 200,000 factory workers.

NIOSH (A division of OSHA) recommends in their feasibility study that sufficient data is available to go forward with an IBM Endicott health study: [A comment period exists to provide public feedback on how to structure research: Email Dr. Lynne Pinkerton of NIOSH at \[niocindocket@cdc.gov\]\(mailto:niocindocket@cdc.gov\) or access <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/103/>. Or US postal mail address: NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS, C-34, Cincinnati, OHIO 45226.](#)

Other TCE concerns:

Senator Schumer to feds: Clean up Long Island water (TCE contamination)

<http://www.newsday.com/search/ny-liwate195261792jun19,0,1272548.story>

Schumer: EPA 'twiddling thumbs' on solvent

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-liepa0618,0,7712689.story?coll=ny-top-headlines>

See what's free at <http://www.aol.com>.

Wednesday June 27, 2007

NEWS

**IBM workers' records pushed for TCE study
Researcher cites worldwide interest**

By Tom Wilber
Press & Sun-Bulletin

A Boston University professor who used IBM records to track cancer deaths among workers in San Jose, Calif., told Endicott residents Tuesday there is worldwide interest in a similar study proposed by federal officials for workers at the Endicott plant.

Richard Clapp, professor of environmental health and a national authority on chemical exposure, encouraged employees and advocates to work with scientists from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to develop the study.

The plan calls for using 28,000 IBM personnel records and cancer registry data to determine whether Endicott employees suffered disproportionately from cancer. The outcome could lead to knowledge necessary for safer manufacturing practices, Clapp said.

"People around the world watch this," said Clapp, speaking to between 40 and 50 people at the First United Methodist Church on McKinley Avenue in Endicott.

He reviewed his own study, part of a 2002 lawsuit against IBM claiming deaths related to toxic exposure on the job in San Jose. His data showed workers suffered significantly elevated deaths from "cancers consistent with solvent exposure," including kidney cancer, brain cancer and non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

While IBM prevailed in court, Clapp's study was published in Environmental Health, a peer-reviewed scientific journal, and has led to continued interest in the subject.

IBM did not cooperate with the Clapp study -- based on a "mortality file" documenting employees who received death benefits -- until the court ordered that the document be turned over. Advocates of the Endicott study should expect the same resistance, he added.

NIOSH -- being a federal agency working on behalf of the general public -- is better positioned to leverage cooperation, he said. Although the agency has the legal authority to subpoena records, "the whole thing could come to a halt" in the face of stiff IBM resistance, he added.

"Every step of the way is a battle," he said. "I would urge you to make sure there is some way NIOSH uses its legal authority to get the information it needs."

Ari Fishkind, a spokesman for IBM, could not be reached Tuesday evening. In the past, he has said IBM is cooperating with NIOSH.

In a report examining the feasibility of the Endicott study, NIOSH officials raised the possibility of IBM resistance preventing a comprehensive study.

Related news from the Web

Latest headlines by topic:

- [Lymphoma](#)
- [Health](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)



STORYCHAT Post a Comment View All Comments

You sound good ,Whitedog.

Are you sick after 28 years of working in that chemical environment? You didn't say you were. As I said for each type of carcinogen, deaths are only accounted for as statistical probabilities because each and every carcinogen you contact could be the one to cause a cancer or not.

Due to the 'probability' that TCE and its affiliated chloro chemicals might cause human cancers even under rigid manufacturing controls and that they certainly were volatile chemicals adding to air pollution, IBM terminated their use. That means that IBM tried to act as responsibly as they could given the data available. OSHA, which was responsible for the chemical use and handling rules, did not initiate this action. IBM did. It does not mean they were trying to duck responsibility, which is your implication. They were trying to protect the safety of their workers and the community.

In my youth, I used carbon tetrachloride to clean wax off of cars to paint them. Carbon Tet was declared a serious carcinogen and banned from public availability. It was replaced by TCE which didn't work as well. I used that too. I used both with my bare hands and no mask. I also breathed laquer fumes painting cars. I also breathed contact cement fumes for hours. I breathed dust from plaster, asbestos, and wood. I smoked for about 20 years and quit at two packs a day. To my knowledge or any of my doctors, I have had no cancer except for a lesion on the top of my ear, which was surgically removed, from excessive solar exposure while fishing. I am in my 60's. You might say I was lucky. Or you might say the statistical probabilities haven't caught up with me. If they do, can you please tell my relatives exactly which of these perilous exposures to carcinogens killed me so they can sue the right company?

I hope you understand my point. Everyone has a history. Everyone has had some exposures to varieties of carcinogens for a variety of reasons. Many have been lucky and see no symptoms. Those that have been unlucky have no exact knowledge of the causative agent for their cancer and no doctor does either. Certainly even a spike in cancers for a population of 28,000 could have another cause, like exposure to tannic acid fumes which E J produced and wafted through the Endicott air. Or how about smokestack fumes from E J, IBM, or the Foundry?


Do you really think any study would be conclusive with all of these available carcinogenic sources to consider plus all the junk people use at home?

This study is wanted to aggregate 'apparent' evidence to sue to make money. Your nickel, Whitedog. What else you got?

Posted by: **glenn guhman** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 10:29 pm

:roll:It's very difficult for me to determine what is going to be accomplished by this study since it will be based on old data, if available, and old processes which are no longer used in the industry. As the previous submitter wrote, it is fodder for a law suit. However, since similar data didn't work before in a previous legal arena, logic says that it will not work here. Mr Clapp smarting from defeat in his first endeavor to free IBM from their money, is joining the ranks here to brighten his tarnished reputation. Mr Wilber, our TCE expert, ad nauseum, is very willing to pitch in with his own tilted spin to blame IBM for everything but the Iraqi war. Maybe that's next. It's his habit to draw his own conclusions and make them sound real with no proof. Stay tuned but don't hold your breath.

Posted by: **Ken Lein** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 1:28 pm

 My mother passed away this past April. She was a 10 yr past employee of IBM. We thought she was "Medically Retired" from IBM and only found out after she passed that she was on "Extended Leave" for about 12 yrs. My mother was a healthy woman when she started working at IBM in 1980 and within a couple of years she was DX with chronic Asthmatic Bronchitis. From approx 1982 until her death she was on breathing medication and inhalers to breath. 5 years ago my mother was in the prime of her life. She purchased a "Snow Bird" home in Florida and shortly after she was DX with IPF (Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis) and had a possible Tumor in her lower left lung that might be cancer. She called me at work in NY with this information. She was in Florida all alone when she got this news. We all wondered why her doctor in NY didn't notice any of this. But, like I said she had had breathing problems since 1982. She never complained about her breathing. She was a past smoker, however, she wasn't a heavy smoker. She usually smoked less than a 1/2 pack a day. And quit numerous times during her life. Prior to her death she hadn't smoked for around 10 years and people didn't smoke in her house. Mom wouldn't let the doctors do any invasive procedures. She educated her self on IPF and I got her to try some new drugs that were freshly Govt. approved. Some of them made her so ill from the side affects that in 85 degree weather she would have the heat up to 90 in the house. In the end we told her that IBM was probably responsible for this illness and that she should try to do something about it. She said no that when she was hired at IBM she had to sign a paper stating that she knew she worked with chemicals that could cause health problems and there was nothing she could do about it. She was on regular oxygen for about a year and liquid oxygen for maybe 3-4 weeks. Strong meds and if you were to do the research there is no cure and very little in the way of treatments for this IPF. We could only sit there and watch our mother die. She

had Medicare and IBM insurance and she still paid out the @ss because IBM wouldn't cover anything that Medicare wouldn't cover. The doctor told my mother if she wanted to live she had to basically give up being an independent woman, to just sit there. I already was giving her showers, my sister was doing her shopping and paying her bills for her and my brother was living at the house for everything else. We loved and still love our mother and none of us felt the "relief" that we were told we would feel after our mother passed. We would have kept doing everything for her for as long as we could just to have our mother with us. Sure, IBM gave my mother a paycheck that gave her the means and ways to make a good life for her children, who wouldn't want that. But the trade off, in our eyes, was her life and if we knew then what we know now, that the chemicals that IBM was using, we would have rather grown up dirt poor and still had our mother. Nobody in my mothers family, her parents family or us kids have this IPF and her doctors said that she probably got it from working with the chemicals at IBM. On her death certificate there is a question: Was death caused from smoking? The doctor checked NO. My brother would like me to look into the class action law suit against IBM to have IBM responsible for our mothers death. I don't even know where to start. IBM was and still is so big with so many resources available to them, it would be like finding a needle in a hay stack going up against them. I think IBM should be made responsible for a lot of deaths, not just from cancer. Keep the investigations going on and send a clear message to other corporations that "were not going to put up with it". The illegal dumping of chemicals into the ground and air has to stop for the safety and health of everyone. People, don't trade your health for a good living it isn't worth it. My mother was 59 years old.

Posted by: **cm6738** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 1:05 pm

To glenn guhman

Your theory is not interesting. Axe to grind? Dr. Clapp has been working on studies of this type for decades, as far back as the early 1970's. Yes, he was called as a witness in the San Jose case. However, his study results were released AFTER the verdict; so they had no impact on the jury or the case. He admits that his study results are one way of looking at it; and IBM's results are another; However, there have been other settlements out of court between IBM and it's workers on this very same issue. That says IBM would rather just put an end to the studies because it makes them look bad.

TCE and the absorption of it in the human body is just begining to be understood by the scientific community. There are disagreements; meanwhile, the death rates of people that have worked with it and been exposed to it, are climbing. OSHA 'standards' have not been updated since the 1970's. They are outdated and allow "most businesses" to practice 1970's era safety, in a 21st Century world.

IBM abandoned TCE and other 'chloro' family chemicals in the late 1980's because they knew they couldn't get away with destroying the environment and sickening their workers any longer. I know that personally, because I worked for IBM for 28 years and was part of the chemical-using manufacturing processes, as an engineering technician. I was there when they decided to stop using Methyl Chloroform, TCE, PCE, and Freon. I was there helping the engineers figure out how to convert to water-based circuit board processing products. IBM was reluctant; but resigned themselves to doing it. They even made a big announcement in 1989 that they had stopped putting 2 million pounds of air pollution in the Endicott air stream through their various vent stacks in the IBM Endicott complex. That's 2 million pounds per year for 25 years or more. What effect did that have on people?

The worms are out of the can. Our great country has been devastated by toxic chemical pollution since before Love Canal. Surely, you don't believe that all that misery is for the sake of a lawsuit? You are naive at best.

If it was, then it was futile. Industry has all but abandoned the USA for countries like India, China, the Phillipines, Brazil, the Ukraine and much of the " Third World"; where environmental laws are unenforceable or non-existent. Where labor is as cheap as \$30.00 a month (IBM China) and where the population must do as they're told so they can live better than they have previously..... for a limited time. Already it is clear that China is bypassing the rest of the world for polluted air and streams.

I think your view is one of denial. Well, you're welcome to it. Just don't expect a saviour, in the science community, to your argument.

Expect more Dr. Clapps' to come forward and inform us all of what really is at stake and what we need to do to make it better.

Whitedog

Posted by: **Whitedog** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 12:49 pm

Obviously Professor Clapp has an axe to grind. His data supporting a lawsuit in San Jose, California was not adequate to get a win in the lawsuit. He would like to see another try. You might note that the primary interest of most people is to win lawsuits and make big money, not to understand mortality rates vs chemical exposure.

There are many industries where employees get some exposure to chemicals and most businesses follow Federal Guidelines from OSHA to follow safe

practices. IBM has abandoned the use of other chemicals, or has developed safer chemical processes, to keep its workers safe, often beyond OSHA guidelines. This type of study does not provide direct correlation between chemical use and disease development.

Those who think that evidence will be developed to support a lawsuit are most probably mistaken. Several facts mitigate against finding damning information and one is not IBM not cooperating. One, ever since this issue was raised 15-20 years ago among semiconductor manufacturers IBM has provided study data to an industry based report. Two, IBM has done several internal studies of its own to either find a problem or not. Three, they tightened up their safety practices even though they found, as reported to employees, no significant exposure problems from following safety procedures. Four, as a result of employee concerns, and lawsuits, ala San Jose, I'm sure they have reviewed all the other data taken and found no useful correlation themselves that would definitively connect TCE with illnesses. So, they are cooperating.

When you advise people to spend our tax dollars on another chemical hunt in industry and the illness of interest is cancer, please go look up a table of potential carcinogens and see how many you are exposed to everyday. You might be surprised. And since most contact diseases result from an act of 'fate', ie. 1 in 100,000 get it, there is no way to know which carcinogen caused someone's illness. Without very high correlation coefficients between exposure at work and illness, not even a good guess can be made. I doubt such data is available in IBMs studies.

I can see the lobby for the study is looking for the long term - a lawsuit.

Posted by: **glenn guhman** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 8:56 am

[Post a Comment](#) [View All Comments](#)

[News index](#)

[Print this article](#) [Email this to a friend](#) [Subscribe Now](#) [Search our archives](#)

[email news](#) [mobile news](#) [RSS](#) [text alerts](#)



"The Best in the Business"

advertisement

- Over 1,500 agents
- We have more buyers than other realtors in our markets
- Our home listings spend fewer days on the market

New York's Largest Independent Real Estate Company
1-800-836-8366

Partners: Jobs: CareerBuilder.com | Cars: cars.com | Apartments: apartments.com | Shopping: ShopLo

[Customer Service](#) | [Subscribe Now](#) | [Pay Bill](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Jobs With Us](#)

Press & Sun-Bulletin

Copyright © 2007 Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin

All rights reserved. Users of this site agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights, updated March 2007.

Problem with this site? Please contact the webmaster.

Gannett New York network: Binghamton | Elmira | Ithaca | Poughkeepsie | Rochester | Utica | WestLo



pressconnects.com

Weather

Jobs

Cars

Homes

Apartments

CI

pressconnects.com

Press & Sun
Greater Bing

search All

GO

Customer Service: [Subscribe Now](#) | [Pay Bill](#)

NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

ENTERTAINMENT

LIFE

NATION/WORLD

OBITU

Columnists

Blogs

Moms

Family Fun

365

Health

Brides

Cele

Wednesday June 27, 2007

NEWS

IBM workers' records pushed for TCE study Researcher cites worldwide interest

By **Tom Wilber**
Press & Sun-Bulletin

A Boston University professor who used IBM records to track cancer deaths among workers in San Jose, Calif., told Endicott residents Tuesday there is worldwide interest in a similar study proposed by federal officials for workers at the Endicott plant.

Richard Clapp, professor of environmental health and a national authority on chemical exposure, encouraged employees and advocates to work with scientists from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to develop the study.

The plan calls for using 28,000 IBM personnel records and cancer registry data to determine whether Endicott employees suffered disproportionately from cancer. The outcome could lead to knowledge necessary for safer manufacturing practices, Clapp said.

"People around the world watch this," said Clapp, speaking to between 40 and 50 people at the First United Methodist Church on McKinley Avenue in Endicott.

He reviewed his own study, part of a 2002 lawsuit against IBM claiming deaths related to toxic exposure on the job in San Jose. His data showed workers suffered significantly elevated deaths from "cancers consistent with solvent exposure," including kidney cancer, brain cancer and non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

While IBM prevailed in court, Clapp's study was published in *Environmental Health*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal, and has led to continued interest in the subject.

IBM did not cooperate with the Clapp study -- based on a "mortality file" documenting employees who received death benefits -- until the court ordered that the document be turned over. Advocates of the Endicott study should expect the same resistance, he added.

NIOSH -- being a federal agency working on behalf of the general public -- is better positioned to leverage cooperation, he said. Although the agency has the legal authority to subpoena records, "the whole thing could come to a halt" in the face of stiff IBM resistance, he added.

"Every step of the way is a battle," he said. "I would urge you to make sure there is some way NIOSH uses its legal authority to get the information it needs."

Ari Fishkind, a spokesman for IBM, could not be reached Tuesday evening. In the past, he has said IBM is cooperating with NIOSH.

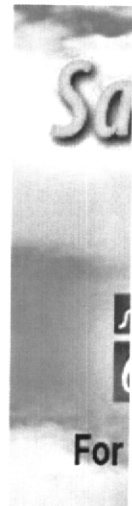
In a report examining the feasibility of the Endicott study, NIOSH officials raised the possibility of IBM resistance preventing a comprehensive study.

Related news from the Web

Latest headlines by topic:

- [Lymphoma](#)
- [Health](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)


STORYCHAT

[Post a Comment](#)

[View All Comments](#)

You sound good ,Whitedog.

Are you sick after 28 years of working in that chemical environment? You didn't say you were. As I said for each type of carcinogen, deaths are only accounted for as statistical probabilities because each and every carcinogen you contact could be the one to cause a cancer or not.

Due to the 'probability' that TCE and its affiliated chloro chemicals might cause human cancers even under rigid manufacturing controls and that they certainly were volatile chemicals adding to air pollution, IBM terminated their use. That means that IBM tried to act as responsibly as they could given the data available. OSHA, which was responsible for the chemical use and handling rules, did not initiate this action. IBM did. It does not mean they were trying to duck responsibility, which is your implication. They were trying to protect the safety of their workers and the community.

In my youth, I used carbon tetrachloride to clean wax off of cars to paint them. Carbon Tet was declared a serious carcinogen and banned from public availability. It was replaced by TCE which didn't work as well. I used that too. I used both with my bare hands and no mask. I also breathed laquer fumes painting cars. I also breathed contact cement fumes for hours. I breathed dust from plaster, asbestos, and wood. I smoked for about 20 years and quit at two packs a day. To my knowledge or any of my doctors, I have had no cancer except for a lesion on the top of my ear, which was surgically removed, from excessive solar exposure while fishing. I am in my 60's. You might say I was lucky. Or you might say the statistical probabilities haven't caught up with me. If they do, can you please tell my relatives exactly which of these perilous exposures to carcinogens killed me so they can sue the right company?

I hope you understand my point. Everyone has a history. Everyone has had some exposures to varieties of carcinogens for a variety of reasons. Many have been lucky and see no symptoms. Those that have been unlucky have no exact knowledge of the causative agent for their cancer and no doctor does either. Certainly even a spike in cancers for a population of 28,000 could have another cause, like exposure to tannic acid fumes which E J produced and wafted through the Endicott air. Or how about smokestack fumes from EJ, IBM, or the Foundry?


Do you really think any study would be conclusive with all of these available carcinogenic sources to consider plus all the junk people use at home?

This study is wanted to aggregate 'apparent' evidence to sue to make money. Your nickel, Whitedog. What else you got?

Posted by: **glenn guhman** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 10:29 pm

:roll:It's very difficult for me to determine what is going to be accomplished by this study since it will be based on old data, if available, and old processes which are no longer used in the industry. As the previous submitter wrote, it is fodder for a law suit. However, since similar data didn't work before in a previous legal arena, logic says that it will not work here. Mr Clapp smarting from defeat in his first endeavor to free IBM from their money, is joining the ranks here to brighten his tarnished reputation. Mr Wilber, our TCE expert, ad nauseum, is very willing to pitch in with his own tilted spin to blame IBM for everything but the Iraqi war. Maybe that's next. It's his habit to draw his own conclusions and make them sound real with no proof. Stay tuned but don't hold your breath.

Posted by: **Ken Lein** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 1:28 pm

 My mother passed away this past April. She was a 10 yr past employee of IBM. We thought she was "Medically Retired" from IBM and only found out after she passed that she was on "Extended Leave" for about 12 yrs. My mother was a healthy woman when she started working at IBM in 1980 and within a couple of years she was DX with chronic Asthmatic Bronchitis. From approx 1982 until her death she was on breathing medication and inhalers to breath. 5 years ago my mother was in the prime of her life. She purchased a "Snow Bird" home in Florida and shortly after she was DX with IPF (Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis) and had a possible Tumor in her lower left lung that might be cancer. She called me at work in NY with this information. She was in Florida all alone when she got this news. We all wondered why her doctor in NY didn't notice any of this. But, like I said she had had breathing problems since 1982. She never complained about her breathing. She was a past smoker, however, she wasn't a heavy smoker. She usually smoked less than a 1/2 pack a day. And quit numerous times during her life. Prior to her death she hadn't smoked for around 10 years and people didn't smoke in her house. Mom wouldn't let the doctors do any invasive procedures. She educated her self on IPF and I got her to try some new drugs that were freshly Govt. approved. Some of them made her so ill from the side affects that in 85 degree weather she would have the heat up to 90 in the house. In the end we told her that IBM was probably responsible for this illness and that she should try to do something about it. She said no that when she was hired at IBM she had to sign a paper stating that she knew she worked with chemicals that could cause health problems and there was nothing she could do about it. She was on regular oxygen for about a year and liquid oxygen for maybe 3-4 weeks. Strong meds and if you were to do the research there is no cure and very little in the way of treatments for this IPF. We could only sit there and watch our mother die. She

had Medicare and IBM insurance and she still paid out the @ss because IBM wouldn't cover anything that Medicare wouldn't cover. The doctor told my mother if she wanted to live she had to basically give up being an independent woman, to just sit there. I already was giving her showers, my sister was doing her shopping and paying her bills for her and my brother was living at the house for everything else. We loved and still love our mother and none of us felt the "relief" that we were told we would feel after our mother passed. We would have kept doing everything for her for as long as we could just to have our mother with us. Sure, IBM gave my mother a paycheck that gave her the means and ways to make a good life for her children, who wouldn't want that. But the trade off, in our eyes, was her life and if we knew then what we know now, that the chemicals that IBM was using, we would have rather grown up dirt poor and still had our mother. Nobody in my mothers family, her parents family or us kids have this IPF and her doctors said that she probably got it from working with the chemicals at IBM. On her death certificate there is a question: Was death caused from smoking? The doctor checked NO. My brother would like me to look into the class action law suit against IBM to have IBM responsible for our mothers death. I don't even know where to start. IBM was and still is so big with so many resources available to them, it would be like finding a needle in a hay stack going up against them. I think IBM should be made responsible for a lot of deaths, not just from cancer. Keep the investigations going on and send a clear message to other corporations that "were not going to put up with it". The illegal dumping of chemicals into the ground and air has to stop for the safety and health of everyone. People, don't trade your health for a good living it isn't worth it. My mother was 59 years old.

Posted by: **cm6738** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 1:05 pm

To glenn guhman

Your theory is not interesting. Axe to grind? Dr. Clapp has been working on studies of this type for decades, as far back as the early 1970's. Yes, he was called as a witness in the San Jose case. However, his study results were released AFTER the verdict; so they had no impact on the jury or the case. He admits that his study results are one way of looking at it; and IBM's results are another; However, there have been other settlements out of court between IBM and it's workers on this very same issue. That says IBM would rather just put an end to the studies because it makes them look bad.

TCE and the absorption of it in the human body is just beginning to be understood by the scientific community. There are disagreements; meanwhile, the death rates of people that have worked with it and been exposed to it, are climbing. OSHA 'standards' have not been updated since the 1970's. They are outdated and allow "most businesses" to practice 1970's era safety, in a 21st Century world.

IBM abandoned TCE and other 'chloro' family chemicals in the late 1980's because they knew they couldn't get away with destroying the environment and sickening their workers any longer. I know that personally, because I worked for IBM for 28 years and was part of the chemical-using manufacturing processes, as an engineering technician. I was there when they decided to stop using Methyl Chloroform, TCE, PCE, and Freon. I was there helping the engineers figure out how to convert to water-based circuit board processing products. IBM was reluctant; but resigned themselves to doing it. They even made a big announcement in 1989 that they had stopped putting 2 million pounds of air pollution in the Endicott air stream through their various vent stacks in the IBM Endicott complex. That's 2 million pounds per year for 25 years or more. What effect did that have on people?

The worms are out of the can. Our great country has been devastated by toxic chemical pollution since before Love Canal. Surely, you don't believe that all that misery is for the sake of a lawsuit? You are naive at best.

If it was, then it was futile. Industry has all but abandoned the USA for countries like India, China, the Phillipines, Brazil, the Ukraine and much of the " Third World"; where environmental laws are unenforceable or non-existent. Where labor is as cheap as \$30.00 a month (IBM China) and where the population must do as they're told so they can live better than they have previously..... for a limited time. Already it is clear that China is bypassing the rest of the world for polluted air and streams.

I think your view is one of denial. Well, you're welcome to it. Just don't expect a saviour, in the science community, to your argument.

Expect more Dr. Clapps' to come forward and inform us all of what really is at stake and what we need to do to make it better.

Whitedog

Posted by: **Whitedog** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 12:49 pm

Obviously Professor Clapp has an axe to grind. His data supporting a lawsuit in San Jose, California was not adequate to get a win in the lawsuit. He would like to see another try. You might note that the primary interest of most people is to win lawsuits and make big money, not to understand mortality rates vs chemical exposure.

There are many industries where employees get some exposure to chemicals and most businesses follow Federal Guidelines from OSHA to follow safe

practices. IBM has abandoned the use of other chemicals, or has developed safer chemical processes, to keep its workers safe, often beyond OSHA guidelines. This type of study does not provide direct correlation between chemical use and disease development.

Those who think that evidence will be developed to support a lawsuit are most probably mistaken. Several facts mitigate against finding damning information and one is not IBM not cooperating. One, ever since this issue was raised 15-20 years ago among semiconductor manufacturers IBM has provided study data to an industry based report. Two, IBM has done several internal studies of its own to either find a problem or not. Three, they tightened up their safety practices even though they found, as reported to employees, no significant exposure problems from following safety procedures. Four, as a result of employee concerns, and lawsuits, ala San Jose, I'm sure they have reviewed all the other data taken and found no useful correlation themselves that would definitively connect TCE with illnesses. So, they are cooperating.

When you advise people to spend our tax dollars on another chemical hunt in industry and the illness of interest is cancer, please go look up a table of potential carcinogens and see how many you are exposed to everyday. You might be surprised. And since most contact diseases result from an act of 'fate', ie. 1 in 100,000 get it, there is no way to know which carcinogen caused someone's illness. Without very high correlation coefficients between exposure at work and illness, not even a good guess can be made. I doubt such data is available in IBMs studies.

I can see the lobby for the study is looking for the long term - a lawsuit.

Posted by: **glenn guhman** on Wed Jun 27, 2007 8:56 am

[Post a Comment](#) [View All Comments](#)

[News index](#)

[Print this article](#) [Email this to a friend](#) [Subscribe Now](#) [Search our archives](#)

[email news](#) [mobile news](#) [RSS](#) [text alerts](#)



"The Best in the Business"

advertisement

- Over 1,500 agents
- We have more buyers than other realtors in our markets
- Our home listings spend fewer days on the market

New York's Largest Independent Real Estate Company
1-800-836-XXXX

Partners: Jobs: CareerBuilder.com | Cars: cars.com | Apartments: apartments.com | Shopping: ShopLo

[Customer Service](#) | [Subscribe Now](#) | [Pay Bill](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Jobs With Us](#)

Press & Sun-Bulletin

Copyright © 2007 Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin

All rights reserved. Users of this site agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights, updated March 2007.

Problem with this site? Please contact the webmaster.

Gannett New York network: Binghamton | Elmira | Ithaca | Poughkeepsie | Rochester | Utica | Westch





IBM Cancer Study Could Apply to Endicott

Dr. Richard Clapp, a professor from Boston University's School of Public Health, says former IBM employees working with a number of harmful chemicals have an elevated risk for cancer.

Clapp published a study involving manufacturing plants across the country including another IBM plant in San Jose, California, where he examined the cause of death of 33 thousand former employees.

"There are enough similarities in the kinds of chemicals that were used in those plants that we looked at and focused on that may shed light on what is learned here in the Endicott workers" said Clapp.

Local lawmakers are also wondering if a study on the 29 thousand former employees of the Endicott site would yield similar results to that of Clapp's study.

"We're certainly coming along, the public has been paying attention--look at all the homes that have been involved" said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo. "But, now we need to turn our attention to the workers."

NIOSH, or The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, recently determined it is feasible that emissions from the Endicott plant are linked to workers' health problems, but they need to do the study to be sure. Although the price tag for such a study: \$3.1 million. A Representative from Congressman Maurice Hinchey's office said they're trying to drum up the funding to get the ball rolling.

"Maurice Hinchey is on the appropriations committee and that is the committee that actually writes the federal budget, that creates the spending bills so we're trying to use our opportunity, our authority on the appropriations committee to find the money" said Dan Lamb from Hinchey's office.

Advocates are still requesting public input on the study--You can send comments to NIOSH at niocindocket@cdc.gov or by calling Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo's office at (607) 723-9047.

FOX 40's MIKE WHITTEMORE REPORTING

 [VIEW VIDEO](#)

[Email Article](#) | [Print Article](#) | [Back](#)

News system programming and video streaming by EFX internet

EFXi





web only:

Spring into Summer 3-day Sale ends Saturday



Your news, all the time.

personalize your news

Central New York Mohawk Valley Watertown/North Country Tompkins/Cortland Southern Tier

24 hour local ne



TOP STORIES

Expert speaks about IBM cancer study

Updated: 6/27/2007 6:32 AM
By: Karen Lee

Dr. Richard Clapp has been studying health effects in IBM workers for decades.

"Studies like this, I've been involved with for 30 years, starting in the late 1970s. So, it's both as an academic and as a consultant that I've been doing this kind of research," he said.



Dr. Richard Clapp

So, he seemed like the perfect guy to come to Endicott, where the community has been asking for a study on workers at the former IBM plant.

His work focuses on mortality rates of IBM workers across the country. Although Endicott wasn't included, he feels there is a definite link.

"There are enough similarities in the kinds of chemicals that we used in those plants that we looked at and focused on that we may learn. It may shed light on what's learned here in the Endicott workers," he said.

Dr. Clapp found that IBM workers had a higher rate of cancer deaths, particularly those involving the brain, skin, and kidneys.

Many believe there are similar illnesses here, but the cost of that study would be \$3 million.

So, they're now turning to state and local representatives.

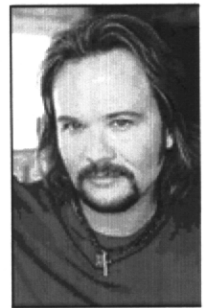
"Maurice Hinchey is on the appropriations committee, and that's the committee that actually writes the federal budget, that creates the spending bill. So, we're trying to use our opportunities, our authority on the appropriations committee, to find that money," said Dan Lamb, Congressman Hinchey's district representative.

They'll also need a lot of manpower behind this study, so officials are

WEATHER



Today | 7-Day | R
Travel | Tem



WATCH THE VIDEO

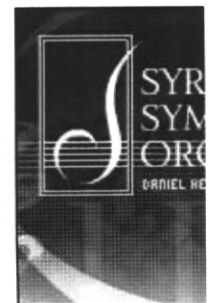
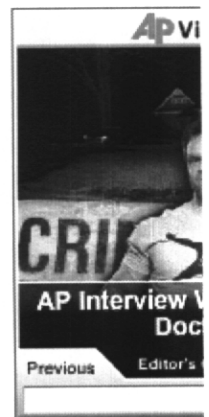
Request for IBM cancer study

Back in March, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health determined a cancer study of former IBM workers in Endicott would be feasible. Since then, a citizens group continues to rally local and statewide support for the study. On Tuesday, they invited a chemical exposure expert to speak on the topic. News 10 Now's Karen Lee has more.

PLAY

ADD TO PLAYLIST

- TOP STORIES
- ALL NEWS
- POLITICS
- CAPITAL TONIGHT
- WEATHER
- SPORTS
- STORY LINKS
- SPECIAL COVERAGE
- HEALTH
- FEATURES
- COOKING AT HOME
- TRAFFIC
- BUSINESS
- IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
- IN OUR COMMUNITY
- AROUND TOWN
- VIDEO STORIES
- CLOSINGS
- ABOUT US
- CONTACT US
- E-ALERTS
- JOBS
- SEARCH




IN YOUR NEIG
JUNE

asking the public to send in their comments on the NIOSH study.

"Simply say either they had a personal experience or they just have a personal interest as a community member that this study go forward. We have been through so much in this community from every angle, the floods of course, but also the historical remnants of these chemical processes," said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo.

The public comment period has been extended until August 27th.

 [Email this Story to a Friend](#)

 [Printer Friendly Version](#)

 [Search TOP STORIES](#)

S	M	T	W
3	4	5	6
10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27

--Select An Ever

ADVANCE

IN OTHER NE

New nonstop ser
Florida...

Woman's body fo
road...

Three teens injur

Crash in St. Lawr
sends man to hos

Conklin commem
anniversary of flo

News 10



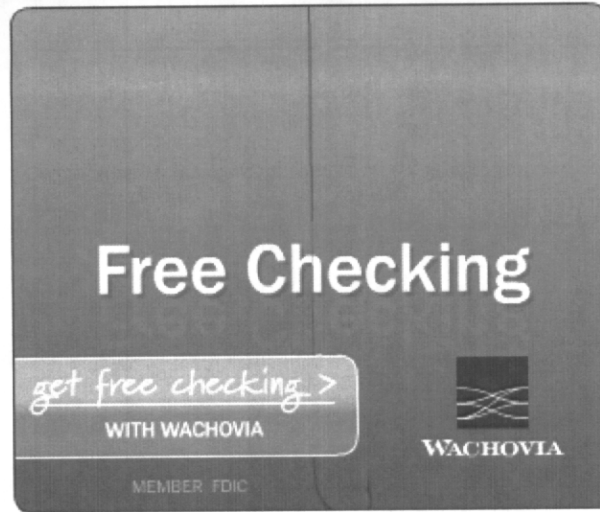
COMMUNI
from
EAG
NEWSPA

Chittenango: Ma
with growing ma

Sullivan: End of

Canastota and E
charged in conn
stolen credit card

Powered b



[Home](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Information](#) | [Site Map](#) | [XML](#)
Copyright ©2007 TWEAN News Channel of Syracuse, LLC, d/b/a News 10 Now.
All Rights Reserved.

Web production by Tipit



Thursday, June 28, 2007 Here are the latest headlines from The Associated Press..... White House Ass

4 minute VIDEO NEWSCAST **ACTION NEWS** 4 updates Weekdays
2 updates Weekends

- Home
- Local Top Stories
- CBS News
- Stormtracker 12
- Action Sports
- News Features
- Steps to a Healthier NY
- Your Health Matters
- School Closings
- Video Archives
- What's On WBNG
- Classifieds
- Jobs
- Inside WBNG
- Community
- Business
- Entertainment
- Contests
- WBXI

LOCAL TOP STORIES

IBM Endicott Workers Could Have Higher Cancer Risk

Video High
That's according to Dr. Richard Clapp.

He's a Boston University Professor of Public Health, and has investigated about half a dozen IBM facilities.

He was invited to present his findings here in Endicott.

His studies, show IBM factory workers that were exposed to chemicals, like TCE, have a higher risk of contracting cancers of the kidney, skin, brain and central nervous system.

Clapp's findings have been published.

His investigation did not include Endicott.

And Clapp says the facilities he did study, varied in their function.

"So the exposure is a little different but there are enough similarities in the kinds of chemicals that were used in those plants that we looked at and focused on that it may shed light on what's learned here in the Endicott workers," says Clapp.

Earlier this year, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health said there was enough information to move forward with a new study, to find out if IBM workers in Endicott are at higher risk for cancer.

NIOSH needs about 3 point 1 million dollars to conduct the study.

Congressman Maurice Hinchey's has said he plans to find a way, to secure those funds.

Story Created: Jun 26, 2007 at 10:54 PM EDT

Story Updated: Jun 26, 2007 at 11:57 PM EDT

Google™

WBNG Web

Search

- SAVE THIS
- EMAIL THIS
- PRINT THIS
- MOST POPULAR

Coffee Exposed

A shocking secret coffee co's don't want you to know.

www.coffeefool.com

Seizures? Get the Facts

Find Epilepsy Information Take Control and Get Support

www.Epilepsyadvocate.com

Anti-Seizure Control

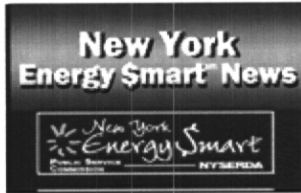
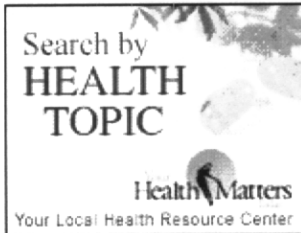
Taking the Right Medicine? Learn About One Option & Savings Offer.

EpilepsySavings.com

AP VIDEO

- Wrestler Calls, Text Messages Co-Workers
- AP Interview With Benoit's Doctor
- Teen Found Murdered in Desert, Burned
- Caught on Tape: Chaos After Death Sentence
- White House, Cheney's Office Subpoenaed

Ads by Google



Copyright © 2007
WBNG, Inc.
560 Columbia Drive, Johnson City, NY 13790
(607) 729-8812 (607) 797-6211

Most Recent EEO Report
A Granite Broadcasting Station

Powered by Broadcast Interactive Media.

**Get instant online access to your FICO[®]
Credit Score with Equifax Score Power[®]**

EQUIFAX

GET STARTED