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COMPREHENSIVE EPIDEMIOLOGIC DATA RESOURCE

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Foreword

The Department of Energy (DOE) has established the Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource (CEDR) as a public-use data base with the goal of broadening independent access to data collected during studies of the health effects of exposure to radiation and other physical agents associated with the production and use of energy. Possible health effects of such exposures have been of interest to scientists and the public since the early 1900s. Because of DOE's unique role in the development of nuclear weapons, DOE has focused many of its studies on the health of individuals who were employed in the production and testing of nuclear devices.

Many of these studies, which were wholly or partly funded by DOE or its predecessor agencies during the last 30 years, were conducted prior to the formation of the Office of Epidemiologic Studies. When this Office was formed in 1989, it took the initiative of opening DOE's epidemiologic studies to more researchers and the public and facilitating broad access to the collected data. CEDR, which is one of the major products of this effort, was introduced in 1992. With holdings now exceeding 1 gigabyte of data that pertain to more than 43 studies, the bounds for CEDR's usefulness are just beginning to be explored. As CEDR holdings continue to grow, there is no doubt that the enormous utility of such a comprehensive public resource will be recognized around the world.

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