

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Marian Work [marian.fabb@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2007 4:20 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Subject: 103 - Endicott Project Comments
Attachments: EndicottStudy_LtrSupport_Template1.doc

Hello. Please accept our comments on the Endicott study proposal. Thanks.

Marian Feinberg
marian.fabb@earthlink.net
For A Better Bronx
199 Lincoln Av. Suite 214
Bronx NY 10454
718-292-4344

IOSH Docket Office
4676 Columbia Parkway
MS C-34
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

August 24, 2007

Re: Docket Number NIOSH-103

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of **For A Better Bronx** to urge that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) provide funding for the proposed cancer study among former IBM employees who worked at the Endicott, New York facility. Among our other activities we do community education and advocacy on environmental health issues—including cancer.

The proposed NIOSH cancer study would be of great benefit to the former and current IBM employees at the Endicott facility, to employees at other IBM facilities, and to the over 1 million employees in the electronics industry nationwide. Elevated risk of cancers has been found in the Endicott community by the NYS Department of Health and yet, no such study has been conducted on those most exposed and at greatest risk - the former workers in the IBM facility itself. The NIOSH, "Feasibility Assessment for a Cancer Study Among Former IBM Employees Who Worked at the Endicott, New York Plant" (March 2007), confirmed that a significantly high number of the 28,000 former IBM employees worked with and were exposed to numerous known carcinogens and other hazardous chemicals. The NIOSH feasibility study also concluded that a retrospective cohort study of cancer mortality and cancer incidence is indeed scientifically feasible using existing company personnel and industrial hygiene records.

As well, the proposed study would lead to an increased understanding of the cancer risks associated with multiple chemical exposures. This has broad implications for occupational and environmental health, and could also potentially lead to pollution prevention and other process safety innovations within the electronics and other industries, as well as fenceline communities.

For these reasons, it is imperative that NIOSH proceed with the proposed cancer study to determine if there are elevated rates of cancer among former IBM employees who worked at the Endicott, New York facility.

Sincerely,
Marian Feinberg, Environmental Health Coordinator
For A Better Bronx
199 Lincoln Av. Suite 214
Bronx, NY 10454