

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

George E. Meyer  
Secretary

101 South Webster Street  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707  
TELEPHONE 608-266-2621  
TELEFAX 608-267-3579  
TDD 608-267-6897

May 31, 1994

Ms. Diane Manning - Docket Office Manager  
Division of Standards Development & Technology Transfer  
National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health  
4676 Columbus Parkway, NIOSH Mail Stop C-34  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

SUBJECT: Federal Register Notice (58 FR 60292) Requesting  
Information Regarding Home Contamination

Dear Ms. Manning:


I have been directed to respond to the January 20, 1994 letter to George Meyer, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in which Dr. Richard W. Niemeier of NIOSH asked DNR to provide any information it had regarding contamination of workers' homes by hazardous chemicals and substances transported from the workplace on clothes, equipment, or the worker's person. I am sorry to inform you that any information we have on such incidents is largely anecdotal.

To determine whether DNR compiled information on home contamination incidents involving employees or regulated entities, I contacted Ken Wiesner, Assistant Administrator in the Environmental Protection Division. Ken asked DNR Bureau Directors and District Directors to determine whether any bureaus or districts compile the information that you seek, and to report back to me. I contacted DNR's Safety Program Director for information on such incidents. I received the attached information, but found that DNR does not compile this type of information in any methodical manner. Though DNR environmental programs have standards set to protect human health and the environment, the programs focus on environmental protection rather than public health or environmental health.

I also tried to direct your request to appropriate state agencies. George Gruetzmacher [(608) 267-2927], an environmental engineer in the Occupational Health Section of the Bureau of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), said he would ask within the agency to see if it compiled such information and contact me if it did. He has not called to date. Shirley Noltemeyer [(608) 266-2780], an OSHA Safety Inspector in the Division of Safety & Building at the Department of Industry, Labor & Human Relation (DILHR), who said that DILHR did not compile such information.

I hope the attached information is helpful. Please call me at (608) 264-9237 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Edwina Kavanaugh  
Attorney at Law  
Bureau of Legal Services

attachments

cc: Secretary George Meyer - DNR

From: ENRLM::DOELGJ "Judy Doelger, 414/492-5899" 30-MAR-1994 13:37:47.25  
To: DNRVAX::KAVANE  
CC: HILDRD,DOELGJ,DNRVAX::ACKLES,DOELGJ  
Subj: Workers' Family Protection Act Information

As the district safety coordinator, this request for information was delegated for my response. The district does not have any records or reports on familial exposures from workplace hazards.

*Take Michigan  
District*

South East District

TC - ~~was~~ ~~inspected~~ Warren Test P.D. - They had one ~~site~~ inspected by OSHA where clothes of workers were found to be contaminated. No evidence clothes were taken home. (414) 263-8512

NWD Safety Coordinator (Spencer)

TC - They may have incidents where forest fire fighters could possibly carry home firefighting chemicals on firefighting clothes, since they take them home to wash them.

However, hazardous waste workers use Tyvek coveralls and mechanics who deal with asbestos now leave soil uniforms & coveralls at work - DNR has a laundry service for clearing them.

From: DNRSD::WEBERR  
To: DNRVAX::KAVANE  
CC: WEBERR  
Subj: NIOSH PROOSAL

"Bob Weber ph #275-3286" 30-MAR-1994 14:00:12.39

I do not know of any instance where the families of wastewater staff have become ill from material that were brought home on the clothing of the employee. I know of instances where employees have become ill from exposure to high levels of bacteria found at wastewater spills. I imagine it may be possible for children, especially crawling infants, to become in contact with bacteria that their parents may have brought into the homes on their shoes. All of the wastewater staff have access to rubber gloves and boots. The animal waste investigators are required to wear rubber boots during their investigations and routinely disinfect them with chlorine bleach after each use.

The impact of the aerosol and water borne bacteria carried home on the clothing of the employees is difficult to assess.

*Just Ann Distinct*