Sabella.AnnaLee

From: Jameson.Bill
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2001 3:25 PM
To: 'Allard, David'
Subject: RE: New Carcinogen Report

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From: Allard, David
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2001 5:16 PM
To: 'jameson@niehs.nih.gov'
Subject: New Carcinogen Report

Dear Dr. Jameson,

I saw an item in the local Harrisburg newspaper on the New Carcinogen
Report, went into your web site at
http://www.niehs.nih.gov/oc/news/11throc.htm, and found the two notes copied
below on the subject of radiation.

"NTP Plans to Look at Common Viruses, Radiation, Cooking by-Products for New
Carcinogen Report -

* X-radiation and gamma radiation, used in medical diagnosis and treatment, and produced in the use of atomic weapons.

* Neutrons, which may affect patients getting neutron radiotherapy and
the passengers and crew of aircraft, which are naturally bombarded by the
particle."

I am a medical health physicist, the PA state radiation control Director,
past Director of External Affairs for the Health Physics Society, Associate
Editor for the HPS Journal, etc.

In concept, I agree that radiation as potential cancer-causing agent.

However, I believe the above statements mix issues, i.e., the sources of
radiation exposure. This will no doubt cause confuse with the public. I'm
not sure how your report discusses these sources of radiation exposure, but
I would suggest a "man-made" and "natural" radiation split, and, revising
these news release bullets as follows:

* Man-made x-ray and gamma radiation exposure from medical diagnosis
and radiotherapy treatment; and, fallout from above-ground nuclear weapons
testing.

* Technologically enhanced external radiation exposure from cosmic
rays to crew and passengers in commercial aircraft ; and, internal exposure
from radon in homes, schools and businesses.

You'll note I've added radon, an important source not discussed, which could
be the second leading cause of lung cancer - second to tobacco use. Hope
this is of some help.

Sincerely,

Dave Allard

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