RECEIVED
JUL 26 2001

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

****

David J. Allard, CHP, Director
PaDEP, Bureau of Radiation Protection
P.O. Box 8469
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469

Tel: 717-787-2480
Fax: 717-783-8965
E-mail: dallard@state.pa.us
http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/rp/rp.htm