

BRUSHWELLMAN
ENGINEERED MATERIALS

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Gordon D. Harnett
President
Chief Executive Officer

July 18, 1991

Ⓟ Be Products
NIOSH

Dr. J. Donald Millar, Director
National Institute for Occupational Safety
and Health
Center for Disease Control
Public Health Service
Department of Health and Human Services
Building 1, Room 3007
1600 Clifton Road, N.E. (Mail Stop D36)
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Re: A Mortality Study of Workers at Seven Beryllium
Processing Plants
Elizabeth Ward, Ph.D., and Andrea Okun, M.S.

Dear Dr. Millar:

This letter supplements our previous correspondence in which I expressed my concerns with the unjustified conclusion set forth in the subject study. Dr. Roth recently concluded an evaluation showing that NIOSH's own SMR figures, when appropriately adjusted for smoking and geographic location, retain no statistical significance. We have submitted the subject study together with Dr. Roth's analysis to Dr. Otto Wong, San Mateo, California, for a further independent evaluation. Dr. Wong concurs in Dr. Roth's findings and our position that the study conclusion is not supported by the data or results. Both Dr. Roth's analysis and Dr. Wong's comments are enclosed for your consideration.

We are unable to conduct the further analyses recommended by Drs. Roth and Wong since the study data necessary have not been released by NIOSH despite our requests through Freedom of Information.

Recently, the Department of Energy circulated the draft of a proposed new workplace standard for beryllium with reduced environmental limits. DOE cites the subject study as evidence that beryllium is carcinogenic to support its position as follows:

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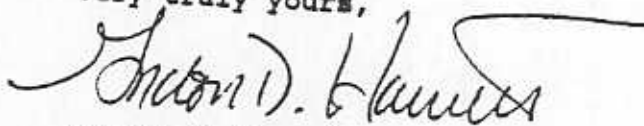
The study appears to conform to the pattern seen in previous investigation (Infante et al., 1980, Mancuso, 1980, Wagoner et al., 1980), a modest increase in lung cancers but only after a long latency.

Prior to publication of the study containing its present conclusion, I request we be given adequate advance notice of the publication journal. This will allow us to contact the editor and request publication of our rebuttal in the same issue. Absent that, we will avail ourselves of all legal avenues as necessary to protect our rights.

Dr. Millar, we are fast approaching a situation painfully reminiscent of that of the late 1970's with its acrimonious public debate over the scientific objectivity and competence of NIOSH studies. My review of the files of that period reveal that you were the principal force in the effort to eliminate the analytical errors and bias in the earlier studies. The current study does not appear to contain either the intense personal bias or many of egregious factual and analytical errors of the old studies. However, attachment of the current conclusion to the analysis, and then its publication, with no more scientific support than is in the study, would be difficult to explain short of a malicious effort to harm the industry.

I have received your letter of June 24, 1991, and will have our people arrange a meeting with Dr. Larry Fine as you suggest. However, I urge you to become personally involved. I again offer to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss these matters and to explore an amicable resolution. Your prompt reply would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Gordon D. Harnett

GDH/rb

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DATE: 7/29/91

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as noted.*

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FROM: Marc Kolaniz

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