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February 14, 1994

Ms. Diane Manning
Docket Office Manager
Division of Standards Development
and Technology Transfer
National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health
4676 Columbia Parkway, C-34
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Ms. Manning:

This responds to the NIOSH Federal Register notice dated 11/15/93 (58 FR 60202) requesting information on the contamination of workers' homes by hazardous chemicals and substances. During my work over the last two years with the Department of Energy's Industrial Hygiene Programs Division, I was told of one or more incidents involving the exposure of wives and family members of beryllium workers to beryllium and their subsequent development of disease. I believe that Paul Wambach, an epidemiologist working at Germantown, and George Talley, a toxicologist working at Los Alamos, might have details on these cases. Their telephone numbers are (301) 903-7373 and (505) 667-6140.

A source of information on pesticide-related family member exposures in the volume entitled Handbook of Pesticide Toxicology by Hayes and Laws (1991). Although reports in this volume concern isolated cases, they are often documented in case studies in the medical literature, and the authors list these sources. Finally, several of OSHA's dockets, most notably those on the asbestos, lead, pesticides, and beryllium rulemakings, contain anecdotes and case study reports on such cases, although these were not (of course) the focus of the undertakings (note that neither the pesticide nor beryllium standards ever "went final"). The recent bloodborne pathogens docket might also have information on such incidents.

As NIOSH is undoubtedly aware, many OSHA standards contain provisions mandating that workers change clothes, shower, etc. before leaving their work premises.

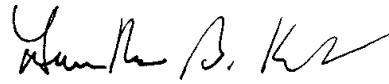
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Although these measures serve to minimize the worker's own exposure through reentrainment or contact, they also reduce the exposures of bystanders and family members.

I hope this information is helpful in NIOSH's efforts to address this important, persistent, but ever-so-elusive public health problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marthe B. Kent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Marthe B. Kent,
President