

Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: edpersico@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 9:37 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 226 - Implementation of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 (Pub. L 111-347) Comments

Name
Ed Persico

Organization
Self

Email
edpersico@yahoo.com

Address
Box 362
Drummond, MT 59832
U.S.

Comments

Hello,

I would like to address several issues which I hope you will consider when seeking implementing the Zadroga bill. I represent out-of state volunteer responders; group which I feel has been overlooked in the process of consideration of this bill. I was an out of state responder/volunteer with the American Red Cross at the Staten Island Landfill, for 21 days immediately following the September 11th attacks. I am also located in remote Montana. This is where I came from not where I moved from following the attacks. It is my experience with the monitoring program that my choice of Occupational health facilities is limited considerably. It is also my experience that I have had extra suffering and complications because of this. In short it my feeling that most WTC programs are geared towards the immediate geographic area, this is as it should be. However the geographic disconnect is huge, both programmically and technologically for out-of-state volunteer disaster workers, additionally the emotional isolation these past ten years has been incredible as I have had virtually no voluntary contact with any other responders or responder programs. I imagine there will be no "Center of Excellence" out in Montana. The expense of being a volunteer disaster worker in the United States is too high, considering we are volunteers, yet mandated to respond. There was absolutely no responder tracking system for out of state disaster volunteer NGO's. Every step of this process is miserable and the work involved in maintaining a presence in the WTC monitoring/treatment program has been daunting to say the least. I want to be able to go to New York and get treated by someone who is involved with the program and not a sub-contractor! I am poor and cannot afford this process much longer, it is amazing to me that my government has asked me to work for them for free in times of national emergency and then because I came from a remote geographic location that I am not as important as those that came from close by! So many responders where affected that response from these locations was necessary. Our National Framework and Stafford act policy dictate this when government is overwhelmed. How much of the 6 billion dollars in the Zadroga act will cover out-of state volunteer emergency/disaster workers? I would really appreciate that you take the time to consider this letter when you create policy.