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Subject: Lupardo: Expand IBM cancer study Contractors should be included, official says:

Newspaper @ TV coverage of Dr. Clapps visit June 26th:


Lupardo: Expand IBM cancer study Contractors should be included, official says:

By Tom Wilber

Press & Sun-Bulletin

ENDICOTT -- A federal health study looking into cancer rates among 28,000 IBM Corp. employees should also include contractors who worked on chemical storage tanks and other infrastructure and buildings at the North Street plant, state Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo said Thursday.



<http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070518/NEWS01/705180331/1006>

Hopes To Expand Study Contracted workers should be included in a proposed National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study of how chemicals may have affected IBM workers sasys Lupardo.  [Video](#)
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State Assembly Woman Donna Lupardo says IBM employees are not the only ones affected by chemicals at the former plant in Endicott. She says thousands of contract workers could also have health concerns.

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IBM WORKERS AWAIT DECISION ON NIOSH CANCER STUDY:



BUSINESSMEN MARK BACON 1412 NORTH ST. ENDICOTT LIVES ON TOP OF IBM'S TOXIC CHEMICAL SPILL EXPRESSES HIS FRUSTRATION:

Dr. Richard Clapp from Boston University school of public health will be conducting a presentation June 26th in Endicott at the First United Methodist Church 53 Mc Kinley Ave. of Endicott 6:30PM open to the public regarding his study that showed higher numbers of IBM factory workers are dying when

compared to the average public. Dr. Clapp will also be making recommendations and comments regarding on how to structure the impending IBM worker health study.

NIOSH just finished a three years feasibility investigation that recommended a health study be conducted on 29,000 former workers at the Endicott facility to see if higher rates of cancer and other health problems exist in the workers. The focus for the study group should include those most likely exposed to chemicals in the work place in order to have accurate results: Concerns from coworkers are about cancer, and other related problems such as birth defects and learning disabilities in workers children.

The ultimate goal is to place pressure on OSHA to update outdated chemical exposure guidelines for workers. Our hope is that more stringent standards will make thousands of factories around the country safer by driving improvements to ventilation, preventative maintenance, and updates to machinery.

Scientists report chemicals used in the computer industry are more toxic than realized previously. Consequently this made it difficult for the medical community to link illnesses with workplace exposures historically. Industrial Hygienists now know better, but the dirty little secret is that Federal standards designed to protect workers from exposure use outdated guidelines set back in the 1960s and 70s. This robs the employer the opportunity to make improvements and gives a false sense of security to workers when safety inspections are based on outdated information: Passing an inspection does not necessarily indicate conditions are safe in the facility according to NY States own NIOSH safety inspector David Sylvan. Sadly this lack of awareness translates into lost opportunities for employers to make the upgrades that could result in improved health, lower health care costs, reduced workmen compensation rates, and innovative solutions: Support an IBM worker health study by emailing Dr. Lynne Pinkerton of NIOSH at niocindocket@cdc.gov or access

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/103/> Or mail NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-34, Cincinnati, OHIO 45226

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Friday May 18, 2007

NEWS

Lupardo: Expand IBM cancer study Contractors should be included, official says

By **Tom Wilber**
Press & Sun-Bulletin

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A \$3.1 million study proposed by the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health would use IBM personnel records and cancer registry data to determine whether IBM employees suffered disproportionately from cancer. But the study would not take into account contractors, including many janitors, plumbers, electricians and carpenters who worked for years building, cleaning and maintaining the sprawling facility -- including chemical storage and manufacturing lines.

"It's really important, if we are going to get the full story on the occupational health side of this, that we do our best to highlight the role of contractors," said Lupardo, D-Endwell.

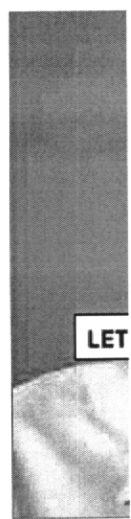
Some unions, including SEIU Local 200 United and Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 112, have records of union members on the job at the plant over the years. It's necessary to include them in the study, Lupardo said. She estimated "several thousand" contractors worked at the plant over the years.

Fred Blosser, a spokesman for NIOSH in Washington, said he could not speak directly to Lupardo's request without seeing it. In general, he said, the availability of reliable records is an important factor in determining whether a study is feasible.

In other developments:

* Federal officials agreed to a request by local advocates to extend the public comment period for the proposal until June 27.

* Richard Clapp, a Boston University professor of environmental health and a national authority on TCE exposure, is scheduled to meet June 26 with local advocates and offer his thoughts on the plan.



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Posted by: **jl12533838** on Fri May 18, 2007 7:53 am

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Hopes To Expand Study

Last Update: May 17, 2007 8:57 PM
 Posted By: [Peter Keane](#)

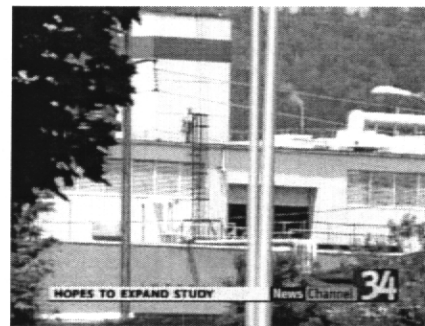
Contracted workers should be included in a proposed National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study of how chemicals may have affected IBM workers.

That's the message Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo and unions are sending to NIOSH. Back, in March we told you that NIOSH said it had gathered enough information in its feasibility assessment study to justify doing another more in-depth cancer study. Originally, it was only going to look at big blue workers. However, many contracted workers came in contact with chemicals including when they were cleaning lines and elevator shafts.

Jim Rounds says, "We all had concerns. But, it was a busy place down there and we went and did our work. We tried to take all the precautions that we could."

Donna Lupardo says, "I say if we are going to go through all the time and trouble to try to find out what's going on with current and former IBM workers we have an obligation to include the contract employees as well."

If you worked at IBM and were not an actual employee of the company Lupardo says it's essential NIOSH be contacted before the end of May 28th. You can call Lupardo's office at 723-9047 and a representative will hook you up with the information you need to contact NIOSH. One other note, Congressman Maurice Hinchey is working on getting the three million dollars that will be needed to do the study.



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TOP STORIES

Study may determine if toxic exposure led to IBM worker health problems

Updated: 5/17/2007 5:13 PM
By: Aaron Goldstein

State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo wants to make sure the health study on the former IBM plant in Endicott takes into consideration the healthcare concerns of contract workers.

Lupardo joined representatives from three unions at the State Office Building in Binghamton Thursday afternoon. All of the unions say their contract workers had direct contact with chemicals at the plant.

Currently, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is considering a study to see if those chemicals caused IBM employees to develop cancer.

"These contract workers, in many instances, had hands on contact with many of these toxic chemicals," Lupardo said. "Plumbers and pipe-fitters who are changing pipes, people who are maintenance workers who are actually mopping up this fluid. These are the people who must be included in any type of health study."

The study will cost more than \$3 million to complete. The public is invited to comment on the proposed study until May 28th.



WATCH THE VIDEO

NIOSH cancer study
State Assembly Woman Donna Lupardo says IBM employees are not the only ones affected by chemicals at the former plant in Endicott. She says thousands of contract workers could also have health concerns.

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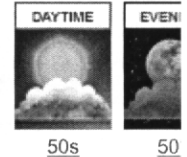
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