

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From:**Sent:** Friday, June 29, 2007 12:07 PM**To:****Subject:** Here's Dr. Clapps recommendations for those who may not have word perfect

Another world renown professor this time from Binghamton University has also promised to review the NIOSH feasibility study and make recommendations. He is currently in South Africa on an assignment and will get in touch with the Western Broome Environmental Coalition in August when he returns. He has experience in a previous study on Mad Cow disease

Dr. Clapp Comments on Endicott Feasibility report:

I. It will be important to compare the cancer mortality experience to a reference group of workers and not just the "general population" as described on p. i-ii of

the Executive Summary. The NIOSH reference group of workers would be a way to do this, if it is available for the relevant time period. There are several other options that should also be considered, such as SMOR or PCMR for mortality analyses.

II. The ECHOES database was started earlier than 1987, so it is unclear why it could only be useful for the years 1987-1992. For example, the Appendix I, line 172-3 cites an article by Hillman in JOM dated 1982. Mr. Hillman was the developer of ECHOES, and he is now retired and would be an invaluable resource for the NIOSH study.

III. The cancers of interest, and for which power calculations were done, are limited. There is good evidence that non-Hodgkin lymphoma is associated with several chemicals to which Endicott workers were exposed. Furthermore, brain and central nervous system cancer have been shown to be elevated in maintenance and repair workers in the IBM Burlington plant (Beall, et al., 2005) and in IBM manufacturing workers (Clapp, 2006). It would be worth including power calculations for these, as well.

IV. The input of former IBM Endicott employees is vital to the success of the cohort study. A formal mechanism for including them in the study as advisors should be developed; the feasibility study has already benefited from their involvement as have other studies of IBM workers.

V. The protocol for the cohort study should include a specific decision process for going further with a nested case-control study.

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