

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

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Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2010 12:11 PM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 194 - Ten-Year Review of the NIOSH Radiation Dose Reconstruction Program Comments

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Comments

I worked in the process areas at Rocky Flats for 22 years. For the first 6 years, I worked in the foundry, melting weapons grade plutonium in stokes furnaces and handling fissile material on a daily basis. The next six years, I worked as a sheet metal technician, with one year as a lab technician. My breast cancer was diagnosed after 15 years of hands-on plutonium work. I had a radical mastectomy, (amputation), and returned to work there for 7 more years. I filed a claim for compensation in 2001 and was twice denied in 2005. My dose reconstructions were estimated to be 42%, then 4%, then 23% by NIOSH. My final 10 years of employment at Rocky jFlats, I was a Radiation Control Technician, through the whole decomissioning and decontamination of the plant. For those of us who worked with the most deadly substances on the face of the earth, we did so in good faith that our government would support us if we should fall in the line of duty. We have been neglected, abused, and manipulated. Compensation is not a reward—it is Symbolic of a country who is grateful to a patriotic American who would sacrifice his or her life for their country. "Dulce et decorum est, pro patria mori"—It is sweet and just to die for one's country—But I sometimes wonder how people can continue to believe in government when it is so shamelessly corrupt.