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From:

Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2005 11:32 AM

To: NIOSH Docket Office

Cc: Shahra (Senator Bill Nelson) Anderson;

Subject: Pinellas Plant Site Profile

I attended the CDC/NIOSH meeting concerning the "Pinellas Plant Site Profile." The meeting was held on November 2, 2005, in Pinellas Park, Florida.

One of the issues I raised was the post-D.O.E. period of 1995-1997. During this period, I was employed at Custom Manufacturing and Engineering Incorporated (CME). This company had leased space at the "Star Center" which was the "Pinellas Plant."

I was at this site working daily as much of the building was gutted. There were many areas that contained radioactive materials and hazardous chemicals that were torn down in various way. One area, perhaps the worst, was area "8" (also know as area "108"). This area involved manufacturing neutron tubes. I saw walls, partitions, and equipment removed.

In particular was the removal of "cells." These were thick reinforced concrete walls where radioactive materials were stored. Hired contractors were brought in to take down these cells using non-powered hand tools, typically sledge hammers and picks. (Story has it that the D.O.E. id not want jack hammers because of the noise disturbing businesses located on site.) Large plastic sheets were hung from the ceiling held together with duct tape. Dust was everywhere anyway. Employees in businesses there walked back and forth along the perimeters.

The contractors wore minimal protection. Hard hats, possible safety shoes, regular clothing, and at most a dust mask. I never noticed a respirator.

Each day, the laborers chipped away at the concrete until it was leveled to the floor and removed. Next, the floor was smoothed, and some leveling grout added. After that, a translucent coating was applied to seal the floor. Note that the floor is the same floor of the "cells" where the radioactive materials were stored. Finally, a blue paint was put on the floor and eventually the former Lockheed Martin Specialty Components machine shop, purchased by CME, was relocated to this area.

Of particular concern here are the employees of business on site at the time as well as the employees of contractors who did the demolition work. I saw nothing in the few minutes I viewed the "Pinellas Plant Site Profile" at yesterday's meeting. (I requested a CD of this.) I was also surprised that the document was so small considering the operations at the plant. I will be commenting on this "Pinellas Plant Site Profile" after I get the CD.

My personal observation is that the "Pinellas Plant Site Profile" falls short in many areas. Another issue I raised at the meeting was that in filing claims, ex-GEND and LMSC had to prove their employment at the "Pinellas Plant" because many records have been lost.

GEND-LMSC employee on site

CME employee on site

11/3/2005