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400 Cowpath Road
Hatfield, PA 19440
17 December 1984
USNRG

Dr. Glyn Caldwell
Centers for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

'84 DEC 26 P1:51

Re: Review of Aamodt Study for NRC

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

Dear Dr. Caldwell,

SERVED DEC 28 1984

Your name is mentioned in NRC correspondence concerning CDC's review of the Aamodt cancer mortality study near TMI. I write you concerning the negative review your agency has given the Aamodt study such that the NRC is quoted as calling it "based entirely on recollections and opinions and (has) no scientific basis."

Having reviewed the Aamodt study and having some expertise in epidemiology, I am puzzled as to why CDC dismissed their preliminary findings so hastily. Although obviously in need of followup, the Aamodt study is credible in several important scientific manners:

- 1) All cancer deaths were reconfirmed after the survey was completed.
- 2) Dr. John Cobb has obtained 12 out of the 20 death certificates in question and has found that 12 out of 12 attributed to cancer indeed died of cancer as primary cause.
- 3) The population base was large enough that the SMR of 5 (4 expected, 20 found) is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

A true independent review of the Aamodt study by CDC would entail an analysis of cancer mortality frequency since 1979 in a larger area than surveyed by the Aamodts. Obviously, CDC has this capability. It might be fruitful to examine cancer mortality rates for census tracts in the TMI area 1974-79 v. 1979-84.

The surprising fivefold increased cancer mortality rates discovered by the Aamodts in their preliminary survey called into question NRC dose assessments from the TMI accident. Hence, it is circuitous to dismiss their preliminary findings on the basis that low radiation doses make such an increase in cancer mortalities untenable. The Aamodt study deserves careful followup and a truly independent review. I would appreciate it if the CDC would take this mandate seriously, as protectors and advisors to our public concerning their health.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Molholt
Bruce Molholt, Ph.D.

cc: James O. Mason, M.D., Ph.D.
Nunzio J. Palladino, Ph.D. ✓

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