



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

Subject

JUN 19 1978

Dr. Thomas F. Mancuso
University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Dear Dr. Mancuso:

Thank you for your letter of May 18, 1978 stating your concerns regarding the NRC Request for Proposal (RFP) to analyze Hanford Mortality Experience.

As you know, we have been deeply interested in the results of the work done by you, Dr. Stewart, and Mr. Kneale since the Health Physics Society meeting in October 1976. The staff has reviewed and commented on your draft papers and presentations up to but not including the presentations at the 1978 AAAS meeting in Washington, D.C. and the March 1978 IAEA Symposium in Vienna, Austria.

We are aware of the funds and effort already expended analyzing the Hanford Data. However, in this case where the conclusions are so important, multiple independent analyses to verify the results are considered to be not only desirable, but essential.

The documents upon which we based our decision to issue an RFP have been placed in the Public Document Room. Both the November 1976 and May 1978 NRC staff evaluations of the October 1976 and September 1977 reports, respectively, by you and your co-workers, are examples of such documents.

We decided to limit the RFP to consideration of external exposure because we wanted to answer the narrow question of the correlation between external exposure and cancer mortality and thus confirm or deny the conclusions of your report of September 1977. In other words, we want to take one step at a time. We certainly agree that internal exposure is a confounding factor just as there are others, and we are most interested in your latest reports. It may well be the case that we will eventually establish that what you determined to be a quantitative correlation between external exposure and cancer mortality was really a surrogate for the effects of internal exposure. It will be most important, of course, to establish the body burdens, i.e. the organ dosages which are to be correlated with the cancers.

With respect to your reticence to provide your processed data, I would point out that although I may have said that I "understood" your position, my empathy should in no way be construed as an endorsement for your decision to deny our request to make available information which could be of import to regulatory decisions affecting the public health and safety, especially information which has been generated from Federally-funded research. Further-

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Dr. T. Mancuso

- 2 -

more on reconsideration, I'm not convinced that making the data available to us would really deprive you of the possibility of obtaining research grants from others.

Thank you for your comments and the copies of your report. Please convey my compliments to your colleagues as well.

Original signed by Jacob Kastner

Jacob Kastner, Chief
Environmental Standards Branch
Office of Standards Development

cc: Senator Gary Hart
Senator Abraham Ribicoff
Congressman Tim Lee Carter
Congressman Paul Rogers
Congressman John D. Dingell

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TASK NO: ES 702-8 ES 812-7

OFFICE	ESB/SHS/SD	ESB/SHS/SD	AD/SHS/SD	D/SHSS/SD		
SURNAME	MParsont/ec	JKastner	ICRoberts	KRGoller		
DATE	6/19/78	6/19/78	6/19/78	6/19/78		



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Attachment 2

JUN 19 1978

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