

Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)

From: De Rosa, Christopher (Chris) (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 4:00 PM
To: Keim, Mark (CDC/CCEHIP/NCEH); Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)
Subject: FW: Draft Letter to FEMA

Importance: High

Attachments: Patrick Edward Preston.doc

Mark /Jim
fyi
Chris

Christopher T. De Rosa, M.S., Ph.D.
Director, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
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Atlanta, GA 30333
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From: De Rosa, Christopher (Chris) (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2007 9:34 AM
To: Frumkin, Howard (ATSDR/OA/OD); Sinks, Tom (ATSDR/OA/OD)
Cc: De Rosa, Christopher (Chris) (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)
Subject: Draft Letter to FEMA
Importance: High

Howie and Tom,

I am resending the previous email (below) which describes my concerns regarding the formaldehyde health consultation. If I receive no objections from you, I will send the attached letter to FEMA by C.O.B Friday, March 9.

Chris

From: De Rosa, Christopher (Chris) (ATSDR/DTEM/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2007 7:22 PM
To: Frumkin, Howard (ATSDR/OA/OD); Sinks, Tom (ATSDR/OA/OD)
Cc: Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/ATB)
Subject: FW: Draft Letter

Howie and Tom,

This is the issue that I discussed w/ you Tom this afternoon. The letter captures some of my concerns on this consult which I saw for the first time today. In my discussions w/ staff, regarding why I was not in the loop, I was informed that they were working on this under the directions of your office. I now have a clearer picture of this and have reaffirmed our SOP's that have been in place for many years. I regret this breakdown and have addressed this issue w/ our staff.

I have no intention of pursuing this any further until I have direction from your office.

Chris

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Patrick Edward
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February 27, 2007

Patrick Edward Preston, Trial Attorney
Office of Chief Counsel
Federal Emergency Management Agency
US Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472
(202) 646-4536

Dear Mr. Preston:

It has just come to my attention that the Health Consultation "Formaldehyde Sampling at FEMA Temporary Housing Units" has been completed without a policy review by our senior technical staff. I am concerned that this health consultation is incomplete and perhaps misleading.

Formaldehyde is classified as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen. As such, there is no recognized "safe level" of exposure. Thus, any level of exposure to formaldehyde may pose a cancer risk, regardless of duration. Failure to communicate this issue is possibly misleading, and a threat to public health. I had discussed this issue several months ago in a review of the public statement derived from Toxicological Profile that FEMA proposed. I specified at that time that this statement contained no mention of the cancer risk and that should be a public health concern.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue and please feel free to contact me. Failure to speak to the long-term cancer risk regarding formaldehyde exposure irrespective of duration is of particular concern.

Christopher T. De Rosa, M.S., Ph.D.
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