

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2003 8:51 AM

Subject: U.S. TO ADOPT STRICTER CANCER GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN

Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine, Splash NewsBulletin and Allergic Reaction NewsBulletin Members;

On February 21, 2003, I sent you a NewsBulletin concerning the U.S. losing the war on cancers. Below you will read good intentions to create guidelines for exposure to children....you will also read about some of the most toxic chemicals and readily recognize the chemical names that have appeared in previous NewsBulletins or discussed at Aquathin U, concerning their new unwanted homes in our environment / drinking water supplies.

Some years back, one of my family members contracted cancer. Thankfully, he beat it. I noticed in the hospital that the dietician recommended along with a special diet, copious quantities of "tap" water for him. I met with the oncologist / surgeon and said, " you know you do such great work here, why would you intentionally negate your efforts." The doc was surprised and asked what did I mean. I said, "you are 'reintroducing' known carcinogens in the yellow tap water, at the request of the dietician." Doc said, "I tell my patients not to eat processed foods because of the preservatives". I said, "then why tell them to drink processed water!?!?" He got it.

These days, most hospitals in major urban areas have incorporated "wellness centers" that include everything from weight and exercise rooms to complementary alternative medicine i.e. acupuncture, yoga, aroma therapy, massage therapy. I respectfully recommend that you print this and the February 21 emails and call on these wellness centers to introduce yourself and your capacities to "stop" the reintroduction of environmental carcinogens that are a leading cause of the rise in cancers in the U.S.and all around the world. They need and want your knowledge !

Warmest regards to all...as well, your comments are always welcome and very much appreciated.

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Alfred J. Lipshultz, President

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U.S. To Adopt Stricter Cancer Guidelines for Kids

By J.R. Pegg

WASHINGTON, DC, March 4, 2003 (ENS) - The final draft of revised U.S. federal guidelines for cancer risk assessment assumes that children are more vulnerable to the effects of certain carcinogens than adults. It is the first time the U.S. government has officially accepted this position.

The move could change the way the federal government devises rules and policies to limit the American public's exposure to environmental pollutants.

"This is a really big step and has far reaching implications for protecting children's health," said Jane Houlihan, vice president of research for Environmental Working Group, a non profit environmental research organization.

"The government's message is simple. Children are at greater risk from exposure to carcinogens than adults."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final draft of new guidelines for cancer risk assessment, released yesterday, "explicitly recognizes that variation exists among people in their susceptibility to carcinogens."

The final draft considers children age two and younger to have 10 times the cancer risk of adults when exposed to mutagenic carcinogens, which cause cancer through direct damage to DNA.

Children have increased cancer risk compared to adults.

Children age two through 15 would be considered to have three times the risk of adults.

Mutagenic carcinogens include arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde, mutagen X, brominated organics and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

EPA's guidelines for carcinogen risk assessment are the framework for agency scientists to assess possible cancer risks from exposures to environmental pollutants. They are used throughout the federal government to evaluate risks from environmental pollutants.

These guidelines have not been updated since they were first issued in 1986 and the current review is intended to make greater use of the increasing scientific understanding of risks from carcinogens. The proposed updates to these guidelines could prompt reevaluation of existing standards.

For its review, EPA analyzed 23 peer reviewed studies of cancer incidence from the past 50 years.

There is increasing scientific evidence that children face much higher cancer risks from exposure to environmental pollutants than adults.

Environmentalists and public health advocates said the new guidance is a good first step, but some are concerned it does not consider gender differences in cancer risks and worried that it could allow new guidelines for adult risks to carcinogens to be weakened.

And EPA has evidence that supports increasing the risk standard for children even further, Houlihan said.

The figure of 10 times used by EPA for children under two years of age is the average of its analysis, but some mutagenic carcinogens have been shown to be some 65 times more potent when exposure occurs during childhood.

EPA data shows that half of lifetime cancer risk accumulates in the first two years of life, Houlihan said, and the agency should extend its guidance to cover carcinogens that act through other mechanisms than mutagenicity, such as phthalates and atrazine.

"The guidelines need to extend to all carcinogens," said Houlihan.

EPA's review finds not enough available data to determine cancer risk assessment from non mutagenic carcinogens for specific segments of the population. It suggests that a variety of approaches still need to be developed and additional research is required.

Some mutagenic carcinogens are 65 times more potent when exposure occurs during childhood.

The increasing scientific evidence that children face higher risks from exposure to carcinogens prompted the agency to release for public review and comment draft supplemental guidance for assessing early life exposure to carcinogens.

The supplemental guidance is part of the agency's response to a 1994 recommendation by the National Research Council that "EPA should assess risks to infants and children whenever it appears that their risks might be greater than those of adults."

The final draft guidelines on risk assessment, according to EPA, reflect many of the comments and suggestions provided to EPA by public and independent scientific peer reviews.

The public can submit comments on the proposed guidelines through May 1, 2003. They will take effect after a final review by an independent scientific advisory board.