

TESTIMONY OF RALPH E. GRAY

ON

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S PROPOSED RULE
"GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICIAN PANEL
DETERMINATIONS OF WORKER REQUESTS FOR
ASSISTANCE IN
FILING FOR STATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION
BENEFITS"**

RADISSON HOTEL CINCINNATI AIRPORT

OCTOBER 25, 2001

RALPH E. GRAY

1954-1982

I am Ralph E. Gray. I worked at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant over twenty 28 years. I was a Security Guard, Janitor and Chemical Operator.

I have asbestosis. A large portion of my work involved escorting duties of subcontractors to work on the steam piping at the plant. This piping is throughout plantsite and is covered with asbestos. The contractors took powdered asbestos and mixed it with water to cover hot and cold lines in the entire plant. When this was mixed, we were totally dusted with the asbestos powder. These uniforms we our responsibility to take home for cleaning. My safety training on this job was none.

rad. chlorine gas
Also as a Guard, my responsibilities in the start-up of the plant was to stand within a release to assure no persons entered the release area due to security measures, not safety measures. Equipment was not totally enclosed when cells were placed onstream in the 1950's. In the early 60's I was in a very bad fluorine release that burned by throat and nostrils. Cleveland Clinic treated me. It took about three years before I could smell. I still have trouble swallowing. I have no hair on my body.

As a Chemical Operator, my responsibilities were to decontaminate throughout plantsite. We swept and mop the contaminated areas and bury contaminated waste in a "hot yard". The liquid from the cleaning solutions were taken to "E" Area, X-705 where uranium was extracted from the liquid. I was in many releases.

I seen an attorney to assist me in filing a state workers compensation claim for asbestosis. I did not have the proof of how and where I had been exposed or a medical statement relating by condition to work at the plant.

The Department of Energy apologized for exposing us to toxic chemicals. They are supposed to help us file and prove our claims. The rules that the DOE propose will not help us at all. DOE has not been responsible as an employer in the past, and our people thought they would be forced to be responsible by law to help us in these workers compensation cases.

Dr. Lockett