

Exhibit #32  
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October 25, 2001 DOE Worker Compensation Hearing testimony of Vina Colley,  
former Portsmouth gas diffusion plant worker

Dear Hearing Panel persons, DOE, members of the press, and public  
citizens,

Why did the DOE and the Congressional process on the sick worker  
compensation bill only place significance on Radiation, Beryllium, Silica  
for coverage for the compensation, and sidetrack chemical injury for gas  
diffusion workers? Many gas diffusion workers have been exposed to the  
chemical called Uranium Hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>) that generates very toxic  
hydrogen  
fluoride (HF) due to countless releases in the course of daily employment.  
DOE has paid Claims for (UF<sub>6</sub>) exposure that I have seen, and this chemical  
caused some of the earliest deaths in the Manhattan Project. Where is  
this  
represented in the compensation bill?

Every gas diffusion site has the above chemicals and more, but many  
workers have not been tested for any of the above mentioned. WHY NOT?  
Testing is  
missing from even the most obvious of the chemical health effects in gas  
diffusion. Fluorides have caused serious and environmental problems  
from industry for more than 100 years and fluorides in the environment  
caused health problems back to biblical times. How did DOE avoid these  
chemical  
health problems that all other fluoride industries have?

According to a 1985 GAO report the workers at the Portsmouth Gaseous  
Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio had the highest radiation exposures of  
all  
the gaseous diffusion plants. This was because we did the high assay  
weapons  
grade uranium processing from 1954 until 1992. We also know that with  
these high radiation exposures there is a hand in hand relationship to  
high HF  
and internalized fluoride exposure. In fact, for UF-6 exposure there are  
1,000  
fluorine atoms for every uranium atom retained in the body. Why are we  
stalling paying these chemically sick workers with unchanged state

compensation systems that have failed to help for 50 year, when the DOE has admitted it put us in harms way? From recent worker reports, It appears the new bill is stalling compensating many clearly affected workers from various DOE exposures. Why? How do the synergism's of high radiation exposure and free radical and toxic metal cells damage from uranium combine with fluorine chemical free radical like damage?

Why did Congressional committees and government agencies leave out Hysterectomies from the exposure expected symptoms list? During the Portsmouth hearings, Mrs. George testified that five out of six women had total

hysterectomy in her department. It has been established in research that many metal toxins and fluorides have affinity with the reproductive tract. During the time of the hearing the Representatives where very concerned over this issue! I didn't work in Mrs. George's Department, but I also had

three tumors and total hysterectomy. Was this left out because it deals strictly

with women? Here is a page from DR. Sara Shannon's Book' it clearly show that

Plutonium 239, cesium 134-137, barium 140, potassium 40-42 and many other daughter produces from the nuclear plant does effect the ovaries of a women.

Again I ask why were hysterectomies left out?

DOE and the Govt. did great media coverage for two workers, which was heart breaking, (one from Portsmouth, Ohio and the other from Paducah, KY) while

the rest have to go through much more harassment with paper work. Larry Day (age 56) just got a phone call a couple of days ago saying it will take

another 30 days to check out his records. I am here to tell you that Larry

is so sick that he doesn't have 30 day's left in this world.

The plant has all the information on these workers and I that it needs to

qualify us for health compensation. Workers have been studied from the time they entered the work site. Groups like NIOSH Institute for Occupational

Safety and Health (NIOSH), Center for Disease (CDC), Comprehensive Epidemiological Data Resource (CEDAR) PU register now the Uranium register.

Enough is enough. We all had to have a security clearances, you have the records. Please stop all the bureaucratic hurdles that you are putting these sick and dying workers through.

Your defective bill rules would force workers to be pushed aside with NO help. DOE is wrong in its interpretation of the law that Congress passed set aside state eligibility criteria. This has wrongly derailed legitimate workers claims.

Each state will be different when workers have to apply for compensation.

For instance, In Ohio "you have to be medically diagnosed that your illness or disease is work-related." Most workers don't even know what material they were working around, so you can't reconstruct something you don't know about.

The lack of documentation, many records altered, falsified, or even destroyed and the significant amount of time that has passed since many workers first contracted or died from their occupational diseases continue to impede sick workers.

Some of my coworker are getting papers to sign and they don't have an attorney. For old claims (like mine) you had to have an attorney to fight the system, because we didn't know how to keep the claims going. Can you tell me how this is going to affect the already approved claims?

I just had to get an attorney for my workers compensation because the DR Sheet reviewed my extensive chart without seeing me and discontinued all but two of my medications. Some of the medication like Lasix for pulmonary function and inhalers for lung problems were taken away and I am now having to pay for the medication myself. What about the stress and depression these workers have gone through fighting for their health why wasn't that add to this bill? Even workers compensation allows for depression. Many have lost everything.

I and many others like me that lobbied in DC from the start by getting the Representatives to see that workers were sick and dying have been left out of this process. I myself have been trying to get the Congressional representatives to listen clear back in the 1980s, letting the Reps know that claims had been paid for radiation exposure since 1945. I have a list at home of those workers and the pitiful monetary amount each dying worker was paid. Sounds like business as usual for DOE with this defective compensation bill.

presumptive

Sincerely,

Vina K. Colley

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GDI: resolve Vina's case.