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Feasibility Study of Health Effect in Pinellas Area

Progress Report and Further Activities

September 1, 1992 through August 31, 1993

Submitted to

U.S. Department of Energy, Pinellas Area Office

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by

Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services

Environmental Epidemiology

May 31, 1993

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This report describes the progress and the plan of activities in the Feasibility Study of Health Effects in populations residing near the Pinellas Plant. The period covered by the work progress is September 1, 1992 through April 30, 1993 and the period covered by the plan of the project activities is May 1 through August 31, 1993.

WORK PROGRESS

Work during this period includes: (1) literature research, (2) demographic information collection and evaluation, (3) health information collection, editing and preliminary analyses, (4) environmental data review and evaluation, (5) meetings with Pinellas county health officials, (6) preparation of requests for additional information, (7) meetings with HRS Radiation Control laboratory staff, (8) steering committee meetings, (9) applications for security clearance, (10) attending meetings of DOE Oak Ridge Health Study and DOE Agreement in Principle (AIP) Forum.

1. Literature research

We have collected approximately one hundred original research papers, reports, reviews and comments on the topic of radiation and health. We have reviewed the literature and will

provide an updated literature review and prepare a final report by September, 1993.

2. Demographic information collection and evaluation

We have collected demographic information for Pinellas county and for the state of Florida. These include population data from official census surveys in 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990; population estimates from the Florida Governor's Office from 1981 to 1989; some census tract information and zip code information. We have also contacted the Pinellas County Planning Department, Pinellas County Water System and Pinellas County Sheriff's Department for background information on Pinellas county.

3. Health information collection, editing and preliminary analyses

During this period, we have initiated review of several sources of health information. First, we prepared a request for vital statistics information on Pinellas county and two other Florida counties (for comparison) and discussed the issue with staff in the office of vital statistics. The information we requested included death, birth and fetal death data in 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990. Since the

computerized vital statistics data is only available after 1970, we received sixteen magnetic tapes from the Florida Vital Statistics Office for 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1990. We have designed a sampling method for evaluating the vital statistics data in the years before 1970.

Second, we have reviewed and analyzed the Florida Congenital Defects Surveillance Project (CDSP) data base. This is a data base which recorded all congenital defects in the state of Florida from 1980 to 1982. We designed a method to analyze the CDSP data base. We have completed a preliminary analysis of the CDSP data.

Third, we reviewed the Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS). The FCDS is a registry of all cancers diagnosed or treated in Florida since 1981. We reviewed the general information available in FCDS and designed a method of analysis for the FCDS data. We have completed a preliminary analysis of the FCDS data. Preliminary results from the FCDS and CDSP analysis have been presented and discussed at the April, 1993 Steering Committee meeting. Comments made at that meeting will be incorporated in the final analysis and report.

4. Environmental data review and evaluation

During this period, we have reviewed the environmental

monitoring information provided by the Pinellas Plant. These materials include annual Pinellas Plant Site Environmental Reports from 1988 to 1991 and annual Pinellas Plant Environmental Monitoring Reports from 1974 to 1987. We have also reviewed GEND microfilm records, the Historical Report on Radiation Protection at GE Neutron Devices and some inventories on radioactive materials at the Pinellas Plant.

5. Meetings with Pinellas County Health Officials

For further information, we have met with county health officials to discuss any available environmental and health information. The following materials were obtained from the county health office: annual Pinellas Plant Environmental Monitoring Reports from 1972 and 1973, Environmental Monitoring: January 1 through June 30, 1971, and July 1 through December 31, 1971, Environmental Monitoring: July 1 through December 31, 1970, Environmental Monitoring: January 1 through June 30, 1964, Environmental Monitoring: July 1 through December 31, 1962.

6. Preparation of requests for additional information

Since there are no annual environmental monitoring reports available in the 1950's, most of the 1960's and 1970's, and GEND microfilm records are incomplete, additional information on

environmental data are needed. We have submitted a request to Pinellas Plant for further information.

7. Meetings with HRS Radiation Control laboratory staff

For further information on environmental monitoring in the Pinellas area, we have met HRS Radiation Control laboratory staff in Orlando. We have obtained some environmental monitoring data on radiation in the Pinellas area.

8. Steering committee meetings

During this period, two steering committee meetings were held. The first steering committee meeting was held in January 11, 1993 in Pinellas county. This meeting discussed and approved the minutes from the last two steering committee meetings, and amendments to the Health Agreement, charge to the committee and the study protocol. Mr. Charles Biederman, a health physicist from the Pinellas Plant, presented a historical overview of environmental monitoring at the Pinellas Plant at the meeting. The meeting also discussed the project staff activities and data collection progress. The second steering committee meeting was held on April 19, 1993 in Tallahassee. The committee discussed and approved the January committee meeting minutes, timelines and details for the study protocol. The project staff presented the

results of preliminary analyses of the FCDS and CDSP and reported the staff activities. The meeting also discussed further steps for the study.

9 Application for security clearance

For better identification of the radionuclide releases and environmental activities at the Pinellas Plant, we have submitted two applications for security clearance in February, 1993.

10 Attending meetings on DOE Oak Ridge Health Study and DOE Agreement in Principle (AIP) Forum.

For better understanding of the environmental and health studies of DOE facilities in other states, our staff attended Oak Ridge Health Study meetings in Tennessee and the DOE AIP Forum in Boise.

THE PLAN OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Proposed project activities for the next four months are as follows:

- (1) We will continue the literature review and prepare a final literature review.

(2) We will prepare a master file for the sixteen magnetic tapes of the vital statistics data; we will edit any inconsistencies in the master file and preliminarily analyze the data.

(3) We will sample and abstract the vital statistics information before 1970. The data will be entered and edited before analyses. A preliminary analyses will be conducted after the data are edited.

(4) Based on the preliminary analysis of the FCDS data, we will discuss the problems with FCDS data base with the data manager. We will do the final analysis after data problems have been resolved.

(5) We will finish the final analysis for the CDSP data.

(6) The next steering committee meeting is scheduled by the end of 1993. The meeting will discuss the work progress and further activities of the project.

(7) A public meeting will be held in Pinellas county by the end of 1993.

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