

MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH

RECORDING & TRANSMITTAL FORM

MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE

SUBJECT: Interim report on the Yellowknife Arsenic Study

FILE NO: 850-5-X751

FROM: (Group of persons)
 Marsh Hawes - President Steel Workers Area Council
 Don Wilson - President Local 802 United Steel Workers of America
 Martin Kolenko - President Local 803 "
 Dave Price - President Local 7288 United "
 Ed McKae - Staff Representative "

DATE: June 2 '75

TO: Minister

INITIATED
IN BRANCH

RECEIVED IN

ADM'S OFFICE: June 3 '75
(Date)

PASSED: June 3 '75
(Date)

ACTION: Please prepare a reply for Minister's signature by June 11 '75

TO	DATE	REPLY			B.F.	DATE SENT TO MINISTER	SIGNED
		INTERIM	FINAL	DATE			
M67	June 3		✓	June 10		June 12	

REMARKS:

CNCPTL OTT TH

HWC OTT

850-5-4751
188041

Dept. of National Health & Welfare

Minister's Office

RECEIVED

JUN 2 1975

Ministère de la Santé et
du Bien-être
Situ bien-être

TELEPHONE

RECEIVED

JUN 2 1975

TELEPHONE

REQ 609
Sous-Ministre FERNAN
DE LA SANTE
JUN 2 1975
MINISTER OF
NATIONAL HEALTH
RECEIVED

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EED0600 NL CNT YELLOWKNIFE NW1 6-1

HONORABLE MARC LALONDE - MINISTER NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

CARE OF HOUSE OF COMMONS OTTAWA ONTARIO

BT

THE UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA IN THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES ARE REGISTERING A STRONG PROTEST WITH YOU CONCERNING THE INTERIM REPORT ON THE YELLOWKNIFE ARSENIC STUDY. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL ASPECTS ABOUT THIS SITUATION THAT WE FIND EXTREMELY REPUGNANT.

SINCE WE ARE THE UNION REPRESENTING EMPLOYEES IN THE GOLD MINES OF YELLOWKNIFE AND HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE AFFECTS OF ARSENIC AND OTHER PROCESSES AFFECTING THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF OUR MEMBERS, WE SHOULD HAVE RECIEVED NOTICE OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. OUR UNION HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL ATTEMPTS OVER THE YEARS TO HAVE INDEPTH STUDIES, SURVEYS AND MEDICALS DONE IN THIS AREA. AFTER SEEING THE INTERIM REPORT WE ARE MORE CONCERNED NOW THAN EVER BEFORE BECAUSE THE REPORT TENDS TO SUPPORT OUR CONTENTION THAT ARSENIC IS AFFECTING OUR MEMBERS AND THIER FAMILIES.

FURTHER WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. WHY THE STEEL WORKERS WERE NOT NOTIFIED OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE RELEASE OF THE INTERIM REPORT?
2. WHY THE INTERIM REPORT IS SO INCONCLUSIVE IN REGARDS TO THE ACCEPTED LEVELS OF ARSENIC CONTENT?
3. WHAT REMEDIAL ACTION IS BEING PROPOSED AND WHAT IF ANY REMEDIAL ACTION IS BEING ACTED UPON?
4. WHEN IS A COMPLETE AND DETAILED STUDY OF ALL PRESENT MINE AND MILL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES GOING TO BE HELD?
5. WHAT ACTION IF ANY, IS BEING DONE TO TRACE FORMER EMPLOYEES OF

THE MINES TO ACERTAIN LEVELS OF ARSENIC PRESENT IN THEIR BODIES?

6. WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, IS BEING DONE TO ASSURE THE OTHER RESIDENTS OF YELLOWKNIFE THAT THE LEVEL OF ARSENIC CONTAMINATION IS BEING CONTROLLED?

7. WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, IS BEING TAKEN TO ACERTAIN THE REASON AND THE CAUSE FOR HIGHER ARSENIC LEVELS IN MILL AND MINE WORKERS THAN THE LEVELS IN THE YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS IN GENERAL?

8. WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, IS BEING TAKEN TO ACERTAIN WHO IS GOING TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ARSENIC CONTAMINATION?

9. WHY THE MINES MANAGEMENT RECIEVED A LIST OF ALL THIER EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN THE SURVEY WHO HAD RESULTS IN EXCESS OF TEN PARTS PER MILLION WHEN THE STEEL WORKERS DID NOT RECIEVE THESE LISTS?

10. WHAT, IF ANY, IS THE ACCUMULATIVE EFFECT OF ARSENIC IN THE HUMAN BODY?

MARKH HAWES - PRESIDENT STEEL WORKERS AREA COUNCIL

DON WILSON - PRESIDENT LOCAL 802 UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA

MARTIN KOLENKO - PRESIDENT LOCAL 803 UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA

DAVE PRICE - PRESIDENT LOCAL 7285 UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA

ED MCKAE - STAFF REPRESENTATIVE UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA.

1003P EDT

CNCPTL OTT TH

HWC OTT

cc. to The Min. for info
Originals to DM of H for reply
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