Construction workers at DOE nuclear sites show higher risk of cancer, asbestosis

Mortality of older construction and craft workers employed at Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear sites

John Dement, Knut Ringen, Laura Welch, Eula Bingham, and Patricia Quinn. American Journal of Industrial Medicine, September 2009.

Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) established medical screening programs at the four DOE-operated nuclear sites (Hanford Nuclear Reservation, Oak Ridge Reservation, the Savannah River site, and the Amchitka site) starting in 1996. Using data from the medical screening program for the cohort of 8,976 construction workers and from the National Death Index researchers found significant excess deaths from cancer, especially asbestos-related cancers, as well as from asbestosis.

Key Findings

- DOE construction workers in the cohort suffered 28% more cancer deaths than other Americans of a similar age.
- DOE construction workers in the cohort suffered 54% more lung cancer deaths than other Americans of a similar age.
- DOE construction workers were almost 6 times more likely to die of mesothelioma than other Americans.
- DOE construction workers were more than 30 times more likely to die of asbestosis than other Americans.

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See full report:
http://bit.ly/1zRjGeX

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