



MEETING DATES

September 16, 2008 – *Industrial and Manufacturing Exposures* – East Brunswick, NJ

October 21, 2008 – *Agricultural Exposures* – Indianapolis, IN

December 4, 2008 – *Indoor/Outdoor Air Pollution and Water Contamination* – Charleston, SC

January 27, 2009 – *Nuclear Fallout, Electromagnetic Fields, and Radiation Exposure* – Phoenix, AZ

BACKGROUND

- A significant number of annual cancer deaths in the U.S. are caused by environmental pollutants and occupational exposures; lower-income workers and communities are disproportionately affected by these exposures (American Cancer Society, Facts and Figures, 2006).
- In the most recent Report on Carcinogens, The National Toxicology Program identified 58 substances as known human carcinogens and another 188 as “reasonably anticipated” carcinogens (*Report on Carcinogens*, 2004, National Toxicology Program).
- Less than 2% of chemicals on the market have actually been tested for carcinogenicity (NIOSH, 2007).
- About 1 in 20 homes in the U.S. have elevated levels of radon and up to 20,000 lung cancer deaths are associated with radon exposure each year (*Cancer and the Environment*, 2003, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences).
- NCI is currently conducting and supporting a number of large studies across the United States, many in collaboration with environmental agencies, focused on the link between cancer and chemical/physical environmental factors (i.e., the New England Bladder Cancer Study and the Agricultural Health Study).

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

Health Care Experts
Scientists

Government Representatives

Scientific/Cancer-Related Organization Representatives
Advocates

Public Health Professionals

QUESTIONS FOR EXPLORATION

General Overview

- *Role of the environment in cancer.* Review of the general lines of evidence that establish the idea that environmental exposures are important in cancer etiology. The role of “avoidable” or “preventable” factors will be addressed, along with the magnitude of the role of environment.

Questions to be Explored

- What governmental regulations/policies are in place to protect workers from exposure to carcinogenic or potentially carcinogenic materials?
- How effective are the current U.S. regulatory system policies on pollutants and are the research resources devoted to these issues adequate?
- What specific occupational industries and populations are disproportionately affected by work-related cancers?
- How do agricultural chemicals affect the water sources and crops ultimately consumed by people, and what are the links between cancer and soil, water, and food contamination?
- What are the health effects on the U.S. population from air pollutants produced by countries (e.g. China) with few or no environmental regulations?
- What are the health risks associated with increased exposure to ionizing radiation used for medical diagnosis and treatment?

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://pcp.cancer.gov>

Meetings of the Panel are open to the public; no registration is required.