

Mr. Fred M. Zeder, II
Director of Territorial Affairs
Department of Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Zeder,

We would like to call attention to the fact that the bill before our Congress for compensation for radiation effects of the Marshallese people of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls who were exposed to fallout radiation in 1954 allows for compensation of those undergoing thyroid surgery for thyroid tumors and for malignancies, namely leukemia related to radiation exposure. Recently, certain other types of malignancy have been reported to be associated with radiation exposure with sufficient frequency to be included (The Effects on Populations of Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation, Report of the Advisory Committee on Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation, NAS-NRC, U.S. Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D.C., Nov. 1972; A Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to the General Assembly, with annexes, United Nations, N.Y. 1972). Therefore, in addition to leukemias and cancer of the thyroid glands; malignancies developing in the following organs should be included: gastrointestinal tract and stomach, breast and lungs. Although the number of such cancers would be expected to be very small or even unlikely to occur and the role of radiation in the development of such a cancer could never be proved, it is nevertheless recommended that any individual in the exposed groups developing such types of malignancy be included for compensation.

On the basis of the above facts the name of a Rongelap man () who died last year of cancer of the stomach should be added to the list of those considered for compensation. We will keep you informed of any further people who might develop such malignancies.

Sincerely,

James L. Liverman

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