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HEADLINE: BP Amoco reportedly could face multi-bln usd cancer lawsuits

BODY:

LONDON (AFX) - BP Amoco PLC could face compensation claims running into "billions" of usd following an outbreak of rare brain tumours at Amoco's Naperville chemical research centre near Chicago, the Mail on Sunday reported.

About 8,000 people who worked at the site in the Seventies and Eighties have been screened and about 20 cases of cancer identified, including seven of an extremely rare form of brain cancer, called glioma, the newspaper said.

The incidence is eight times higher than in the general population and 10 legal actions have already been filed, it said.

Grant Dixon, an Illinois lawyer representing the 10 people claiming damages from BP Amoco said there is a direct parallel to lung cancer and asbestosis cases.

Dixon said: "It would be conservative to say that BP Amoco is looking at hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation and damages. It could go into billions. This is a very big deal."

Last week, the 10 cases already filed against BP Amoco were combined to be heard by a single judge - one of the steps prior to preparing a class action suit, the report said.

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LANGUAGE: ENGLISH