

Copyright 1999 Paddock Publications, Inc.

Chicago Daily Herald

August 6, 1999, Friday, Cook, Fox Valley, Lake
SECTION: News; Pg. 7

LENGTH: 428 words

HEADLINE: Report fails to soothe families hurt by cancer cluster effects

BYLINE: Dan Culloton Daily Herald Business Writer

BODY:

Janet Brady doesn't know about cancer clusters, case-control studies or etiological links.

The St. Charles resident just knows she has lost a husband, her three daughters have lost a father and her granddaughter has lost a grandfather.

"He was here for so long and all of sudden he's gone," she said. "We miss him very much. Just having him around, being with him, working up at the bait shop (in Hanover, Ill.). It's been hard." Brady's husband of 31 years, David, died in March just short of his 60th birthday. He's one of five former employees of the BP Amoco Research Center in Naperville who have died of a fatal form of brain cancer called glioma.

Like many of those touched by the cluster of 19 benign and malignant brain tumors that have struck current and former research center employees since 1982, Brady did not expect the company-funded investigation that wrapped up Thursday to declare the tragic riddle solved.

However, she and others, particularly those who have filed lawsuits against the company, expected more from BP Amoco.

"I think for legal reasons, they won't take responsibility for it," Brady said.

BP Amoco on Thursday stated more clearly than ever something at the research center caused the six most serious brain tumors.

That's a big admission for a big corporation, but the company's failure to name a specific cause and its conclusion that 13 benign brain tumors and other cancers among employees were not work-related irked Brady and attorneys for former BP Amoco employees.

"It's a litigation tactic," said Grant Dixon, a lawyer who has sued the company on behalf of at least six former research center workers, none of whom the company counts among the most

serious brain tumor cases.

There are 10 lawsuits pending against the London-based company representing 21 people. Many of those suits postulate flaws in Building 500's ventilation system and the presence of several risky chemicals caused the tumors.

BP Amoco's Brain Tumor Task Force maintains it has not concerned itself with litigation, only helping the victims and their families. "We've been meeting with them and listening to their concerns and will continue to meet with them and listen to their concerns," said company spokeswoman Vicki Kastory.

"They've treated me OK," said Janet Brady, whose husband worked at the research center for 23 years and who worked there herself as a technician for nearly 10 years. But she knows who she blames.

"I don't have my husband anymore," Brady said. "So, yes, I guess I blame Amoco to a point."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 9, 1999