

MEMORANDUM

TO: Diana Wong, Designated Federal Officer

FROM: Vincent Cogliano, Director, IRIS Program

RE: Post-peer-review comment by Dr. Anne LeHuray regarding report by Dr. John J. Spinelli

DATE: 21 May 2015

On May 19, 2015, Dr. Anne LeHuray of the Pavement Coatings Technology Council submitted a comment on the draft IRIS assessment of benzo[a]pyrene to the SAB staff office. Dr. LeHuray attached a report, funded by WorkSafeBC and conducted by Dr. John J. Spinelli, on skin cancer and coal tar products, arsenic, cutting oils, and solar ultraviolet light. Dr. LeHuray requested that this report be sent to the Science Advisory Board's Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee Augmented for the Review of the Draft IRIS Benzo[a]pyrene Assessment.

Please let the Committee members know that the benzo[a]pyrene assessment team had been aware of Dr. Spinelli's report. This report noted that occupational exposures to coal tar in various industries have been associated with skin cancer, but because of concurrent exposures, epidemiological studies of workers exposed to coal tar plus other carcinogens were excluded (see page 18 of Dr. Spinelli's report). Instead, Dr. Spinelli's report focused on three studies of eczema, psoriasis, or skin cancer patients treated therapeutically with coal tar products (Roelofzen et al., 2010; Mitropoulos and Norman, 2005; Lindelöf and Sigurgeirsson, 1993). We had discussed these three studies in the draft assessment (see pages 1-54 and D-33 to D-38), along with several additional epidemiological studies of patients treated with coal tar products.

Finally, Dr. LeHuray criticized the draft assessment for "over-reliance on anecdotes/case reports." Please know that the draft assessment did not include anecdotes, case reports, reviews, letters to the editor, or studies that did not report a measure of coal tar exposure.

We hope this provides some clarity.