



August 5, 2004  
Dr. Bill Adamson  
805 Acadia Dr.,  
SASKATOON, SK S7H 3W2

Dear Dr. Adamson:

Thank you for your e-mail of July 13, 2004 in which you express concern over the discontinuation of a study of the health and mortality rates of Saskatchewan miners.

The Province and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in consultation with the mining companies' management and worker representatives, based their decision to discontinue this study of current Saskatchewan uranium miners on research and the subsequent conclusions provided in the 2003 SENES Study. The key conclusion of the 2003 SENES Study was that workers at modern uranium mines receive more radon exposure in their homes, from natural sources, than they receive on the job.

Additional difficulties cited with the proposed study included smoking habits of miners having a large confounding effect on the study results and the relatively small number of uranium miners available for the study resulting in large statistical uncertainties.

Consequently, it was determined that it would not be scientifically possible or technically feasible to link any lung cancers contracted by workers to their occupational radon exposures. Radiation exposures will, however, continue to be measured and tracked for the indefinite future. I have attached a background document that

provides detailed explanations of this decision for your information.

Let me assure you that Saskatchewan Labour will continue to monitor workers' radiation exposures to ensure that they remain at the current low levels. As well, the health study of the older Beaverlodge miners is continuing and should be completed in 2005.

In closing, I am confident that the current Government regulations, along with the monitoring of exposures, will ensure the best possible protection of the workers' health and safety

Sincerely,

(signed)  
Deb Higgins  
Minister of Labour