

FEB 9 1979

Honorable James Schlesinger
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Jim:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposed a revision to its occupational exposure standard for beryllium in 1975. Recently, at OSHA's request, HEW Secretary Califano conducted a review of the scientific data on the health effects of beryllium. He concluded that beryllium is a carcinogen and recommended that OSHA proceed to set a new standard limiting exposure to beryllium in the workplace.

A thorough review of the evidence in the beryllium record is underway and will be the basis for the development of a new standard that would provide necessary protection for American workers in the beryllium industry. This review will include an analysis of the technological and economic feasibility of any new requirements.

I can assure you that the Department has no intention of significantly and adversely affecting key national defense programs.

Since the possible economic impact on the beryllium industry of a new standard represents a mutual concern to the Departments of Energy, Defense and Labor, I would appreciate your designating a representative for the purpose of coordinating our efforts. I have made the same suggestion to Secretary Brown. This will ensure that the concerns of the three Departments are expressed and are resolved appropriately.

Sincerely,



Secretary of Labor