

Reviewer's report

Title: Cancer mortality in IBM Endicott plant workers, 1969-2001

Version: 1 **Date:** 7 March 2008

Reviewer: Robert Herrick

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1. Page 4, the statements about the work histories for employment at Endicott should be clarified. For example, the statement " The CMF contained records for deceased individuals who had been employed for five years or more. " should explain, were these individuals with 5 or more years of total IBM employment? The question would be whether it is possible to make any conclusion about the actual duration of Endicott employment for those subjects whose death records showed they had worked at Endicott between 1969 and 2001?

2. Page 6, the statement about similarities between the Endicott plant and other IBM facilities ("..the similarity in some of the chemical exposures in the Endicott plant ...") should be reconsidered. First it is not clear exactly which plants are being considered similar in exposures. The NIOSH feasibility report seems to make it pretty clear that Endicott was not a semiconductor plant, so one would not expect similarities for example to exposures in cleanrooms. It may be that the better comparison is to San Jose where there were more mechanical operations (manufacture of card readers, disk drives, etc).

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable