

Reviewer's report

Title: An Examination of Cancer Epidemiology Studies Among Populations Living Close to Toxic Waste Sites

Version: 2 Date: 27 December 2007

Reviewer: Richard W. Clapp

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions: The authors explain their decision to exclude the Woburn studies on the basis that the exposure was from multiple past activities that polluted the drinking water. This is not persuasive, given that the two contaminated wells are themselves a Superfund site and are being remediated. The studies of health outcomes in Woburn are important and deserve at least a footnote as to why they were not included in the review..

The authors have adopted a more appropriate approach to discussing multiple comparisons issues in the various studies. This is satisfactory.

Minor essential revisions: There are still spelling mistakes in the Appendix and references. naphthylamine is mis-spelled on p. 14 and phthalate is mis-spelled on p. 21, for example. Siemiatycki is mis-spelled in both the appendix and the references.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.