

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Occupational Safety and Health
Washington, D.C. 20210



MAR 24 2005

Mr. Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental
Responsibility (PEER)
2001 S Street, NW
Suite 570
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Ruch:

Thank you for your letter concerning beryllium testing for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) employees. Please be assured that OSHA is concerned about the health of all American workers, including our own safety and health professionals.

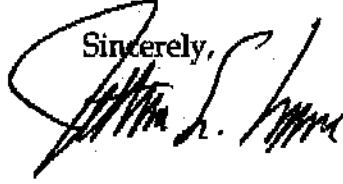
OSHA currently has in place a pilot medical monitoring program for our employees who may have been exposed to beryllium during the course of their employment. This pilot program is paid for by the Agency and available to all Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) who have participated on inspections in industries where workplace exposure to beryllium can occur. This pilot beryllium medical monitoring program is designed to complement our existing CSHO medical examination program.

The pilot beryllium medical testing program was carefully designed. The deliberate planning of the program included: establishing criteria for participation; development of an educational program and materials; and establishing procedures for the implementation of the program in all our area offices. To better enable OSHA personnel to make an informed decision, the program utilized an outreach component directed to all CSHOs that included an OSHA specific Web-cast, regional and local training programs, and five written informational brochures. The pilot medical monitoring program includes the beryllium lymphocyte proliferation test (BeLPT). In keeping with proper medical surveillance procedures, after the test results are obtained and evaluated, and our employees informed of the results, further steps are planned to address the findings as part of our evaluative process.

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We will continue to address the medical safety and health of our staff in a thoughtful and deliberate manner. Thank you for your concern for the health and safety of those members of our workforce who may have had beryllium exposure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan L. Snare". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan L. Snare
Acting Assistant Secretary