

November 10, 2008

DON WAYNE
Chair, Literature Department
0410

SUBJECT: Literature Building Cancer Cluster Study

Dear Don:

I have received the report authored by Dr. Cedric Garland regarding a possible link between electromagnetic fields (EMF) in the Literature Building and eight cases of breast cancer from 1991 to present. The health and safety of the people who work at the University are my highest concern, and I believe that immediate action should be taken to follow up on Dr. Garland's report.

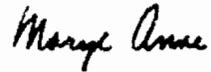
I have directed Steve Benedict, Director of Environment, Health & Safety, to retain an expert in the effects of EMF to perform a detailed investigation of the Literature Building. I greatly appreciate the work Dr. Garland put into the preparation of his report. Further study is nevertheless necessary to clarify and elaborate on Dr. Garland's tentative conclusions. Specifically, Dr. Garland concluded that, "[d]espite the apparent overall safety of the Literature Building, there is a possibility of a mild to modest increase in risk of breast cancer associated with [a] very small area of the first floor building in very close proximity to the electrical and elevator equipment rooms." Dr. Garland qualified this uncertain conclusion by emphasizing that the EMF he observed "is not prohibited by any known US national exposure standard" and that "[t]his exposure is unlikely to be a principal cause of breast cancer that has been diagnosed in people who have worked in this small area." Nevertheless, Dr. Garland felt "some possibility exists that it [i.e., EMF] could have contributed modestly to risk."

If there is a health and safety issue in any building on this campus, I want to know about it, so I can fix the problem and protect our people. For that reason, even though Dr. Garland concludes that there is only "some possibility" of "modest risk", I believe that a comprehensive study is required to get to the bottom of this situation. I have asked Director Benedict to identify an appropriate expert and get him or her working as soon as possible, so we can reach a speedy resolution.

I understand that, in response to Dr. Garland's report, your department has vacated several offices adjacent to the elevator equipment room. I support this action and ask that you maintain it while a definitive study of this matter is conducted.

In the meantime, I want to express my sympathy for the women with cancer. It is a terrible disease, and my thoughts are with them and their families. Please assure them I am determined to discover if anything at the University affected their health – and if so, I will take action to avoid future illnesses.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marye Anne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marye Anne Fox
Chancellor

cc: P. Drake
E. van Young
S. Relyea
S. Benedict
C. Garland
T. Leet