

Monday, November 15, 1999

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

B A13

Exhumations are next step in class-action radiation suit

By David S. Musten
PHILADELPHIA

It is its natural state, uranium does not contain enough radioactive material to require further enrichment increases the percentage of fissionable material, said William McCleary, a Louisville lawyer who is representing the families. "As many as 10,000 workers and maybe another 10,000 family members were exposed to elements which significantly increased their chances of getting cancer."

One of those being exhumed is Joe Harding, a former machinist at the plant who died of cancer in 1986. Harding's widow, Clara, would an 18-year court battle arguing that his fatal disease was caused by exposure to radioactive dust at the plant.

Clara Harding refused to talk about the case, as did others who gave permission for their relatives to be exhumed. The others being exhumed, C.E. Harris and H.C. Mathis, died of cancer while in their 50s.

"Everything... has been very hush-hush," said a resident. "Nothing seems out of there, except radiation."

He said it was the staff he worked for who he suspected was radioactive. He said he was the staff he worked for who he suspected was radioactive.

By then, Joe Harding had been exhumed and his remains reinterred. McCleary claims the government has estimated about \$90 million for the effort. But area residents and state officials, including Gov. Ed Rendell, complain that that is inadequate.

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