

## XIX. ANNEX 3 - SUPPLEMENTAL ANALYSES

The study is of distinct benefit to the herbicide-exposed group since it may provide the individuals with an early warning of herbicide effects if they are occurring; or if no herbicide effects are uncovered, the study can provide some peace of mind by contributing to settlement of the public controversy. The study, however, is also of very significant benefit to unexposed individuals participating in the effort as comparison subjects. These additional returns occur because of the nature of the study design and the analytic flexibility inherent in that design.

Except for the skin condition called chloracne, none of the disease entities that have been related to herbicide exposure are unique to that exposure. Processes such as peripheral neuropathy, teratogenesis, and carcinogenesis have been reported in laboratory studies with animals or in epidemiologic studies of herbicide; but these processes also occur somewhat commonly in general populations without herbicide exposure. Thus, to determine the occurrence of a true herbicide effect, this epidemiologic study is gathering data on other factors known or suspected to produce disease, and which could obscure herbicide effects. Among these potentially confounding factors are several military and civilian occupational exposures to chemical, physical, and biologic agents including: asbestos, x-ray or nuclear radiation, industrial chemicals, insecticides or pesticides, and prior infectious disease processes. By studying possible correlations between these factors and disease processes, benefits accrue to both the herbicide-exposed and unexposed subjects. Correlations between disease incidences and other potentially causative factors will be sought using statistical data-processing techniques such as multivariate regression or analysis of variance. This approach will identify herbicide effects in a fair and equitable manner as described in the protocol, but it will also provide additional medical data of significant direct interest in its own right.