



STEVE LINDLEY

NTD's Lindley promotes free medical screenings after being diagnosed with CBD

"It wasn't until I got to doctors who knew about DOE work that I got answers."

Boilermaker refuses to rest while brothers need help

IT WAS TAKING control of him, and he was starting to believe he didn't have much time to live. The once mysterious illness that had affected his ability to work was growing worse. So Steve Lindley did the only thing he'd been known to do — he kept going.

The symptoms of his illness began appearing almost immediately following the eight months he spent on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River site located in Aiken, S.C. In 1978, the site was bustling with the construction of holding vessels for spent uranium.

A National Transient Division Boilermaker by trade, Lindley was dispatched out of Local 687 (Charleston Heights, S.C.) to help build the vessels that would store hazardous material in the F-Area, better known as the Tank Farm. What he didn't know was that these vessels were being constructed with a high concentration of beryllium, a chemical element that can cause permanent and devastating respiratory problems when its microscopic metal shavings are inhaled. It is the same substance that stared Lindley in the eyes on a bright day when a ray of sunlight shone through a manhole in the tank, and the welding dust glistened "like a snow shower."

With no personal protective equipment, he sensed that this was a bad omen. Even though symptoms surfaced quickly, he ignored a visit to the doctor until 1993. But even in 1993, Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) was unfamiliar to doctors, causing them to misdiagnose him with sarcoidosis, an abnormal immune response characterized by inflammation.

It wasn't until Lindley learned about the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program (BTMed) that he stepped onto a path towards the truth. The BTMed was able to offer him answers to the questions he had about his health problems. He enrolled in the program and went through its two steps: a work history interview and a medical exam.

In step one, a work history interview is conducted to determine what exposures the former worker may have encountered while working on a DOE site. The interview can be completed in-person, on the telephone, or on a secure website.

In step two, the worker receives a free medical screening exam at a nearby clinic to test for illnesses that may have developed from work exposures, as well as other more common health problems. Following the exam, the participant receives a letter indicating any medical findings.

After receiving a results letter stating that he had been sensitized to beryllium, Lindley filed a claim under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Program Act (EEOICPA), prompting the Department of Labor to send him for further testing, which resulted in a diagnosis of CBD. "It wasn't until I got to doctors who knew about DOE work that I got answers," he said. "It's like if you get bitten by a snake, you need to go to a doctor who's around snakes."

Through EEOICPA, he was compensated for his illness, though as he said, "I'd gladly pay it all back just to be able to jog around the block."

But for Lindley, it's not over. His experience has convinced him to lead other workers to the program. "I'm trying my best to contact as many former DOE workers as possible to say, 'Hey, you need to go through the BTMed and get screened. I've already been successful with one of my good friends, and I'm going to make every effort to track down my old co-workers so I can tell them about this program.'"

After finding long-awaited answers to questions about his health and then persisting until he received compensation, Steve Lindley deserves his time to relax. But that's not what he will do. Instead, he'll keep going.

Are YOU one of those former DOE construction workers he's trying to reach?

➔ If you worked at one of the covered DOE/AEC sites listed on the map above, please contact the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program

**1-800-866-9663
www.btmed.org**

The BTMed Program is coordinated by CPWR — The Center for Construction Research and Training — and supported by the Building & Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO.



MARTINE ALLAIN, JULIE ALLAIN, AND JOSEE ALLAIN, daughters of L-73 member Omer Allain, lay a wreath in remembrance of their father.

Boilermakers support Canadian workers' memorial

Daughters of deceased L-73 member lay wreath at Saint John, NB, monument

THE FORMAL DEDICATION and unveiling of a new monument to commemorate Canadian workers who have been killed or injured on the job took place on April 28th at Rockwood Park in Saint John, New Brunswick. The unveiling was part of a "day of mourning" ceremony in which more than 30 wreaths were laid at the foot of the monument by family members and union representatives.

Boilermaker involvement was integral to the project. Retired IVP Sandy MacDonald served on the Hatheway Trust April 28th Monument Committee, which spearheaded fundraising efforts for the monument. The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in the Eastern and Western IVP Sections of Canada was among the platinum donors, contributing over \$10,000 to the project. Other organizations contributing at that level included the New Brunswick Provincial Trades Council, the Laborers' International Union of North America, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

The monument, designed by local artists Fred Harrison and Daryn Buyers, depicts four figures holding up a heavy beam to demonstrate the accomplishment of working together. The beam also serves as a sundial to mark the passage of time, in commemoration of those workers who have died on the job.

Speakers at the event included Pat Riley, master of ceremonies; George Vair, chairman of the monument committee; Bob Blakely, director of Canadian Affairs for the Canadian Building Trades, AFL-CIO; and Mayor Ivan Court (City of Saint John). Each speaker gave a moving address to the families of deceased and injured workers and the many supporters of the memorial effort. Among those laying wreaths at the foot of the monument were the three daughters of Omer Allain, a Local 73 (Halifax, Nova Scotia) member who was killed in a workplace accident in 2008. IVP Ed Power (Eastern Canada) also attended the ceremony, laying a wreath on behalf of all Canadian Boilermakers who have been killed or injured in the workplace. □

