



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

4676 Columbia Parkway, MS: C-46

Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

(513) 533-6825

May 23, 2007

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Lafayette, Indiana

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The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated SEC Petition-0079 concerning workers at the Dow Chemical Company site in Madison, Illinois under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 and 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all AWE employees who were monitored or should have been monitored for exposure to thorium radionuclides while working at the Dow Chemical Company Madison Site for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days during the period from January 1, 1957 through December 31, 1960, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the SEC. The Board notes that although NIOSH found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, they believe that they are able to reconstruct components of the internal dose including uranium, external exposures from all radionuclides except Thorium, and occupational medical doses for this class of workers, and therefore individuals with non-presumptive cancers may be considered for partial dose reconstructions.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- People working at the Dow Chemical Company Madison Site were involved in various industrial operations involving uranium and thorium.
- The NIOSH review of the available monitoring data found that there were not sufficient data available to estimate the internal and external doses from exposure to Thorium. Therefore, NIOSH concluded that individual dose reconstructions are not feasible for people working in this facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion.

- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for workers at the Dow Chemical Company Madison Site during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Denver, Colorado where this special exposure cohort class was discussed. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Ziemer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chairman

Enc.