



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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July 8, 2011

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The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 00162 concerning workers at the Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13.

The Board respectfully recommends that SEC status be accorded to:

"All employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and its contractors and subcontractors who worked in any area at the Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from January 1, 1949 through December 31, 1962, for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days, occurring either solely under this employment or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees included in the SEC."

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- Individuals working at Sandia National Laboratories during the time period in question worked on nuclear weapons production and related operations.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) review of both available monitoring data as well as available process and source term information for various production activities at Sandia National Laboratories found that NIOSH lacked adequate information necessary to complete individual dose reconstructions with sufficient accuracy for internal radiological exposures to plutonium, tritium, and other radionuclides during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these Sandia National Laboratories employees during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the May 24-26, 2011 Board meeting held in St. Louis, Missouri, the Board recommends that this class be added to the SEC.

Enclosed is the documentation from the Board meeting(s) where this SEC class was discussed. The documentation includes transcripts of the deliberations, copies of the petition, the NIOSH review thereof, and related materials. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

[Signature on file]

James M. Melius, M.D., Dr. PH
Chairman, ABRWH

Enclosure