



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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March 3, 2009

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The Honorable Charles E. Johnson
Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 0115 concerning workers at the Tyson Valley Powder Farm in St. Louis, Missouri, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 (c)(1) and 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 (c)(3). The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to All Atomic Weapons Employer (AWE) employees who worked at Tyson Valley Powder Farm near Eureka, Missouri, from February 13, 1946 through June 30, 1948, 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 in the SEC.

The Board notes that although National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, they believe that they are able to reconstruct the occupational medical doses and portions of the external radiation dose.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- The purpose of Tyson Valley Powder Farm was to meet the need for a large ammunition depot and testing facility during World War II. The primary function of the site was to receive, store, issue, and test explosives, small arms ammunition, 105-mm projectiles, and chemicals commonly used in tracers and incendiaries. The only buildings of interest for this report are five igloos (Igloos 48, 49, 50, 51, 52), which likely stored radioactive material. NIOSH did not find any evidence of other areas at Tyson Valley Powder Farm being used for radioactive material storage or operations.

- NIOSH was unable to locate any internal or external monitoring records for the period under evaluation. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation at this facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our February 18, 2009 Board meeting, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where this Special Exposure Cohort class was discussed. The documentation includes transcripts of the deliberations, copies of the petition, and the NIOSH review thereof, and related documents distributed by NIOSH. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul L. Ziemer".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chair

Enclosure