



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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September 14, 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 00182 concerning workers at W.R. Grace and Company, in Curtis Bay, Maryland, 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 Atomic Weapons Employees who worked at any building or area at the facility owned by W.R. Grace and Company in Curtis Bay, Maryland, for the operational period from May 1, 1956 through January 31, 1958, 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 Special Exposure Cohort."

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- Individuals working at the W.R. Grace and Company facility in Curtis Bay, Maryland during the time period in question worked on the processing of monazite ores to produce thorium for use in nuclear weapons production and related operations.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) review of available monitoring data, as well as available process and source term information for various production activities at the W.R. Grace and Company facility in Curtis Bay, Maryland found that NIOSH lacked adequate information necessary to complete individual dose reconstructions with sufficient accuracy for both external and internal doses during the operational time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these W.R. Grace and Company employees during the time period in

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question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the August 23-25, 2011, Board meeting held in Richland, Washington, 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