1 FEBRUARY 6, 2004
2 P R O C E E D I N G S
3 (8:00 a.m.)
4 **DR. ZIEMER:** Good morning, everyone. I'll
5 call the meeting back to order. This is -- we
6 begin this morning with administrative
7 housekeeping items. Let me ask Cori Homer if she
8 will approach the mike and inform the Board of any
9 specific items that she needs handled.
10 **UNIDENTIFIED:** (Off microphone) She's not in
11 here at the moment.
12 **DR. ZIEMER:** She's not here. Oh, she is
13 running something off for me, actually. Okay.
14 Okay, Larry, do you have any items that you need
15 to call to our attention? If you don't have
16 anything, we can proceed.
17 **MR. ELLIOTT:** While we're waiting on Cori,
18 let me offer this, and I will try to -- what does
19 that thing do (Inaudible). Too few jokes and a
20 dance or two.
21 Just to let the Board know, in Vegas we
22 talked -- y'all talked about holding a session
23 like we held last night and how we get the word
24 out about our meetings and all of that, so I
25 wanted to just brief you on what we tried to

accomplish about notification of this meeting. One, we worked through our contractor and -- using the points of contact that they have for who we talked to down here back on November 11th, and I know Dr. Melius made some contacts, Knute Ringin made contacts. We put a notice in the paper. We advertised in the local paper. Cori has a copy of that if you're interested. We contacted the site and went through the public affairs folks at the site and they sent out an announcement. I think it went site-wide. I'm not sure exactly how they did that, whether it was by e-mail or it was bulletin board or what, but they did make notice around the site that the meeting was going to be held.

We had -- we revised our standard e-mail notification and updated it with new e-mail addresses and made an attempt that way to get the word out. So I think we canvassed as well as we could. We're trying to think of other ways that we can get the word out, but I'd appreciate any thoughts or comments you have about this revised approach to notice -- notify people that we are meeting in their areas. So I think that's about all I can do with expanding time here, but I just

1 wanted you to realize that's what had gone on
2 behind the scenes to announce this -- this
3 meeting.
4 **DR. ZIEMER:** Looking ahead to the meeting in
5 Richland, Washington, the Hanford area -- and that
6 meeting is scheduled for April -- the week of
7 April 19th. Do we know the exact dates of that
8 yet?
9 **UNIDENTIFIED:** (Off microphone) (Inaudible)
10 **DR. ZIEMER:** Okay, let me repeat what she
11 said since the mike wasn't used -- that we would
12 meet on the 20th and the 21st, and the tour would
13 be on the (Inaudible).
14 **UNIDENTIFIED:** (Off microphone) On the next
15 day.
16 **DR. ZIEMER:** On the 22nd.
17 I'm sorry, on the 22nd would be the tour.
18 The meeting would be the 20th and 21st. The tour
19 would be on the 22nd, tour of Hanford. And in
20 connection with that meeting, we might anticipate
21 again having an evening session. That seemed to
22 be fairly successful last evening here, and so if
23 we can do something similar at Hanford, then -- in
24 terms of announcing and arranging that, that would
25 be good and try that again and see how that works.

1 **MR. ELLIOTT:** We will, we'll do all that
2 we've done here and try to do a little bit more,
3 even.
4 **DR. ZIEMER:** And then Wanda, is there
5 anything else you need to tell us in terms of
6 preparation for that meeting?
7 **MS. MUNN:** I don't believe there's anything
8 official. It is my anticipation to have a
9 reception the preceding evening at the Crest*
10 Museum.
11 **DR. ZIEMER:** The reception would be on the
12 evening of the 19th for those who arrived in time?
13 **MS. MUNN:** Correct, it will be at 6:00 p.m.
14 **DR. MELIUS:** Excuse me. Wanda also asked
15 that -- she wants to have us line up and hear us
16 all complain about how long it took us to get in
17 to see her and how terrible the trip was and...
18 **MS. MUNN:** You will each be allotted five
19 minutes.
20 **DR. ZIEMER:** Okay. Well, Wanda, we are
21 looking forward to that meeting.
22 **MS. MUNN:** We are looking forward to having
23 you there.
24 **ADMINISTRATIVE HOUSEKEEPING**
25 **DR. ZIEMER:** Cori is back, and Cori, do you

1 have other housekeeping items for us?
2 **MS. HOMER:** Just quickly, some of you have
3 not turned in voucher information, and I have at
4 least a half-dozen travel orders outstanding that
5 I have no voucher receipts -- information on, so
6 please return that to me as quickly as possible.
7 Also, we have a need to update the roster.
8 If your address or personal information's changed
9 -- phone numbers, FAX numbers, e-mail addresses --
10 please let me know. You can just write it on your
11 roster that's in your book and turn that in to me
12 before we leave.
13 And on Monday I will send out an e-mail
14 asking for your time spent -- preparation,
15 workgroup, et cetera. Go ahead and send that to
16 Larry and cc me so that we can get you paid.
17 **DR. ZIEMER:** Okay. Any questions or
18 additional items that anyone wishes to raise --
19 housekeeping issues?
20 **MR. PRESLEY:** Are we going to set --
21 **DR. MELIUS:** Are we going to set another
22 meeting?
23 **MR. PRESLEY:** -- set our next meeting or two?
24 **DR. ZIEMER:** Yes, we can do that. You're
25 talking about meetings beyond the April.

(Pause)

I think we will assume that by the April meeting that we will have taken care of all the details on our own contractor and we'll be underway with all tasks. Then the question becomes how soon after the April meeting do we need to meet.

MS. DIMUZIO: Dr. -- Dr. Ziemer --

DR. ZIEMER: Yes?

MS. DIMUZIO: -- there is, on one of the tasks that's still outstanding, a two-month reporting requirement for completion of the task, so I don't know if you want to consider that in determining when your next Board meeting is.

DR. ZIEMER: That's task -- which task is that?

MS. DIMUZIO: Task four.

DR. ZIEMER: Task four, which has been --

MS. DIMUZIO: I'm sorry --

DR. ZIEMER: -- approved.

MS. DIMUZIO: -- task three. Three, I'm sorry. Task three.

DR. ZIEMER: Oh, task three has not yet been approved. If that gets approved soon, then we'd be talking about roughly two months from now.

1 Well --

2 **DR. MELIUS:** That would take us to the April

3 --

4 **DR. ZIEMER:** The April meeting might cover

5 that --

6 **DR. MELIUS:** Yeah.

7 **DR. ZIEMER:** -- or we'd be close on the April

8 meeting, so...

9 **DR. MELIUS:** I think --

10 **DR. ZIEMER:** I'm wondering about early June,

11 perhaps. It's about a six-week interval.

12 Electronic calendars work wonders, right?

13 I have -- I have a conflict basically from

14 about the 20th of May almost to -- well, basically

15 to the end of the month, so last part of May is

16 out completely for me.

17 **UNIDENTIFIED:** (Off microphone) The week of

18 the 10th?

19 **DR. ZIEMER:** Of?

20 **UNIDENTIFIED:** (Off microphone) May.

21 **DR. ZIEMER:** We'll be meeting, you know,

22 April 21st, so 10th of May is only a couple of

23 weeks later. It may be a little early. What

24 about early June, does -- how does -- early June?

25 **DR. ROESSLER:** I'm gone June 6th through 13th

to the Ukraine, but I'd rather come here.

DR. ZIEMER: The week of June 1st?

MR. ELLIOTT: Staff looks okay.

DR. ZIEMER: Staff appears to be okay. Let's go ahead and pencil in --

DR. MELIUS: The latter part of that week.

DR. ANDRADE: Memorial Day's the 31st.

DR. MELIUS: And I've got some commitments on June 1st.

DR. ZIEMER: Perhaps the 3rd and 4th -- 3rd and 4th, is that bad if you're leaving for --

DR. ROESSLER: I have to leave on the 6th, but I --

DR. ZIEMER: Can't do it? 2nd and 3rd? No? Tentatively 2nd and 3rd of June? What about location? Do we have any locations that we have talked about that -- I'm trying to remember.

DR. MELIUS: We've talked about the San Francisco area, we've talked about Pantex, we've talked about Buffalo area.

MR. PRESLEY: We've got a lot of little places up around Buffalo. That part of the year would be -- the weather wouldn't be too bad up there.

DR. ZIEMER: Barely, right?

1 **DR. ROESSLER:** Pantex would already be hot.
2 **MR. PRESLEY:** Yeah, Pantex would be hot by
3 then.
4 **DR. ZIEMER:** Any preferences?
5 **DR. ROESSLER:** How do you get to Buffalo?
6 **DR. MELIUS:** Barely.
7 **DR. ZIEMER:** Would you like to try Buffalo?
8 Okay, Buffalo, we'll see what you can find there.
9 **UNIDENTIFIED:** The 2nd and 3rd. Right?
10 **DR. ZIEMER:** Yes.
11 **MS. MUNN:** San Francisco?
12 **MS. HOMER:** San Francisco as an alternate?
13 **DR. ZIEMER:** San Francisco alternate?
14 **MR. ESPINOSA:** Sure, baseball.
15 **DR. ZIEMER:** Now, Rich, we want to make sure
16 everybody knows this is a serious --
17 **MR. ESPINOSA:** How about Boise, Idaho?
18 **DR. ZIEMER:** Yeah, Idaho's another area that
19 we need to consider, and --
20 **DR. ANDERSON:** 'Cause the next week after
21 that, the week of the 7th, is the (Inaudible)
22 epidemiologists' meeting (Inaudible) be there.
23 **DR. ZIEMER:** Actually how would the group
24 feel about making Boise the alternate for Buffalo
25 if --

1 **UNIDENTIFIED:** What about Idaho Falls?
2 **MR. GRIFFON:** Yeah, Boise or Idaho Falls,
3 really.
4 **DR. ZIEMER:** Which is easier to get to, Idaho
5 Falls --
6 **UNIDENTIFIED:** (Off microphone) It's easier
7 to get to (Inaudible).
8 **UNIDENTIFIED:** (Off microphone) Idaho Falls
9 has (Inaudible) service.
10 **DR. ROESSLER:** What is -- it's easier to get
11 to Boise?
12 **DR. ZIEMER:** Yeah, Idaho Falls would be fine.
13 (Whereupon, the Board discussed alternate
14 venue for the proposed meeting.)
15 **DR. ZIEMER:** Does Idaho count as east coast?
16 I guess it does to people in Richland. That's
17 right out here by Cape Cod, isn't it?
18 Okay. I'm reluctant to -- too much beyond
19 June till we see where we are with the contract.
20 Are you okay just -- at that point or do you want
21 to reserve another date? You okay?
22 **DR. MELIUS:** I think if we -- if we --
23 **DR. ZIEMER:** We have two meetings ahead.
24 **DR. MELIUS:** Yeah, and also if we figure out
25 the contract issues and so forth and pin down the

meetings, we can always (Inaudible) calendar and do it by e-mail and (Inaudible) meeting. I think we've talked about a number of potential locations, so...

DR. ZIEMER: Okay, very good.

MS. MUNN: So where are we going in May?

DR. ZIEMER: May will be Buffalo, first choice.

UNIDENTIFIED: May or June?

DR. ZIEMER: That's actually June. It's June 2nd and 3rd. Boise's the alternate -- or Idaho Falls.

MR. ELLIOTT: Idaho Falls would be better. It's closer to the site, if anybody wanted to go to the site. Buffalo's 300-plus miles away.

DR. ZIEMER: It's all the same to the people in Hanford. Right?

Okay. Are we ready to go ahead with our working session? We have a number of items -- go ahead, Mark.

MR. GRIFFON: Just one more housekeeping thing. I brought it up with Larry yesterday, but maybe he could just update the Board on the IMBA software and the availability for the Board members.

1 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Sure. We are still working on
2 the end-user's license agreement for the IMBA-
3 NIOSH Expert software. This is a new software
4 program that we've had Tony James and NRP develop
5 for us. There's one more remaining deliverable on
6 that, another -- one aspect or piece of the
7 software that we have yet to receive, and the
8 license -- end-user's license agreement has to
9 cover the Board, Sanford Cohen & Associates, as
10 well as ORAU. Right now the current end-user's
11 agreement that we have only covers ORAU, and so
12 we're working through the legal aspects of that.
13 So that's where we're at. We're working to try to
14 finalize that end-user's license agreement. As
15 soon as we have it in place, you'll have it.
16 **DR. MELIUS:** Can I -- two issues. One is for
17 the next -- agenda for the next meeting in
18 Hanford, and I really would like us to talk about
19 the Blockson Chemical issue. I think we at least
20 need a presentation on what's happening with that,
21 and I think it's an issue related to sort of the
22 basic methodology and guidelines for what happens
23 in terms of dose reconstruction. And I don't know
24 if I completely understand it, but I think we
25 certainly -- there's enough information we have,

1 and since NIOSH is moving ahead with completing
2 dose reconstructions for a number of the
3 claimants, I think -- we may be too late, but I
4 think we really do need to get that out there and
5 discuss it and at least get it addressed. So I
6 ask that you put that on the agenda for the next
7 meeting.
8 **DR. ZIEMER:** Is that do-able?
9 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, I don't know if it's do-
10 able or not. We'll have to see where we're at
11 within -- at that point in time in the evaluation
12 of how we're going to handle that issue.
13 **DR. MELIUS:** Well, Larry, I beg to differ. I
14 don't think it matters where you are. I think as
15 a Board we're supposed to advise you on guidance
16 on dose reconstruction. This is not a rule-
17 making. If it's a rule-making, tell us. It's a
18 issue that we should provide you advice on and I
19 see no need to delay that while you make up your
20 mind. We're --
21 **MR. ELLIOTT:** Well, the Secretary -- you
22 advise the Secretary and the Secretary sets your
23 agenda. And if the Secretary decides that at this
24 point in time it would be appropriate to present
25 the issue for consultation, he will. But I can't

1 -- I can't predict whether that will happen or
2 not.
3 **DR. MELIUS:** I disagree. The Secretary does
4 not set our agenda. We are charged -- and if you
5 read the original statue, we are really charged
6 with providing guidance on a number of specific
7 issues in the original statute, and we do not --
8 providing guidance on those issues that -- we
9 provide them to the Secretary and through the
10 Secretary, but the Secretary does not set our
11 agenda for what those issues are. There are a
12 number of other areas that you may ask us for
13 advice on through the Secretary, and that -- that
14 is at your discretion. But I think things related
15 to the original guidance, guidelines for dose
16 reconstruction -- written right in the statute and
17 those are what we're supposed to provide you with
18 advice on.
19 **DR. ZIEMER:** Any other comments on that
20 particular issue? I'm assuming that there --
21 aside from issues of where the Agency is, there's
22 a general interest in the underlying issue that
23 that plant represents so that perhaps even a
24 briefing on how one goes about addressing those
25 kinds of issues would be of value. Perhaps -- I

1 don't think there's any implication that the Board
2 is necessarily smarter than the staff. The idea
3 here is to make sure that those issues, as they're
4 -- in a sense, as they struggle through those
5 issues, that if we can be of help there, that
6 would be good, too. I think it's -- I think the
7 suggestion is in the spirit of helping, to the
8 extent that we can, on addressing that issue.
9 **MR. ELLIOTT:** And I appreciate that. I
10 agree, the expressed interest is in the spirit of
11 helping. But I disagree that -- the Secretary
12 does set the agenda, and it's -- you know, we can
13 point to the language of that.
14 **DR. ZIEMER:** Right. Let's go ahead with our
15 working session, which deals with the SCA
16 contract. We have with us two of the -- oh --
17 **DR. MELIUS:** I have one other issue I wanted
18 to bring up.
19 **DR. ZIEMER:** Okay, sure.
20 **DR. MELIUS:** Which is -- the last meeting we
21 briefly discussed a letter that came in from three
22 Congressmen in western New York regarding the
23 Bethlehem Steel dose reconstruction, and --
24 **DR. ZIEMER:** Yeah, I would put that under the
25 general discussion area. That's not a

1 housekeeping issue, I don't think.
2 **DR. MELIUS:** Fine.
3 **DR. ZIEMER:** I did ask Cori to make a copy --
4 I brought the original with me and Cori has
5 distributed copies of my response to the
6 Congressmen and to Secretary Thompson. And if
7 there's no objection, we'll discuss that in the
8 other session at roughly 10:00 o'clock.
9 We have the principals here from SCA --
10 **MR. GRIFFON:** Paul, can I ask one question
11 related to -- I know we'll discuss it later, but
12 do we have a copy of the original letter that came
13 from the Congressmen --
14 **DR. ZIEMER:** I thought that --
15 **MR. GRIFFON:** -- (Inaudible) the Board?
16 **DR. ZIEMER:** -- that was distributed at the
17 last meeting.
18 **MR. ELLIOTT:** It was passed out at the last
19 meeting. I don't think we have --
20 **DR. ZIEMER:** I have copies --
21 **MR. ELLIOTT:** -- reference copies --
22 **DR. ZIEMER:** -- of it here, if any of you --
23 **DR. MELIUS:** (Off microphone) (Inaudible)
24 copy of it if Cori wants to (Inaudible).
25 **DR. ZIEMER:** How many need copies of the