

1 construction and other tradespeople do move after  
2 retirement and --

3 MR. TURCIC: Yeah, we -- we welcome that.  
4 Sometimes it's hard because of privacy issues to  
5 get, you know, the administrators of those funds  
6 to allow us -- I mean we don't -- we don't need  
7 the names. You know, we'll give them the material  
8 that they could stuff the envelope. Yeah, that is  
9 in fact one of -- direct mailings have been our  
10 most successful method of outreach. And if  
11 anybody has any contacts or ideas, you know, we --  
12 we appreciate them all.

13 DR. ZIEMER: Charles Owens.

14 MR. OWENS: I'm aware of the efforts that the  
15 Department is making at Hanford. Do you have a --  
16 do you have a phased approach that you're going to  
17 do in regard to the outreach, and if you do, could  
18 you provide that approach to us, too?

19 MR. TURCIC: Yeah, we -- I sure will. What  
20 we -- what we're trying to do is we have a long-  
21 range plan and I'll get a copy -- you know, I'll  
22 get that to Larry and he can get it to the Board,  
23 and then we're -- you know, we have a quarterly  
24 plan. We try to stay -- you know, focusing in  
25 certain areas. Like I said, we just completed our

1 plan for the Cleveland office and where we're  
2 going to focus in Cleveland is Fernald and Mound  
3 because they are sites that are closing. And then  
4 the beryllium vendors, so that's where we're  
5 focusing in, you know, this -- this upcoming  
6 quarter. But we'll get that -- we'll get that  
7 plan to Larry and he can share it with the Board.

8 MR. OWENS: Yeah, I think that -- you know,  
9 we've been very involved -- PACE has --

10 MR. TURCIC: Yeah.

11 MR. OWENS: -- in ensuring that workers  
12 who've been under-represented from a number  
13 standpoint are contacted. And I know there are  
14 some very good folks out at Hanford, and I'm  
15 hopeful that your efforts will be successful.

16 MR. TURCIC: Yeah. We'll be out there next  
17 week.

18 DR. ZIEMER: Robert Presley.

19 MR. PRESLEY: Pete, I know that we get a lot  
20 of complaints. I want to pass on a good comment.  
21 A person at Oak Ridge came to me last week that  
22 had gone through the beryllium program. She was  
23 very complimentary about how well she was treated  
24 --

25 MR. TURCIC: Good.

1           MR. PRESLEY: -- the fairness of the people  
2 that she worked with on your program, and she was  
3 very complimentary and she wanted me to pass on  
4 thanks.

5           MR. TURCIC: Thank you.

6           DR. ZIEMER: Thank you. Larry has a comment,  
7 then we'll go to Rich.

8           MR. ELLIOTT: Pete, on your slide on the  
9 Special Exposure Cohort, this is the slide that  
10 appears right before your outreach set of slides,  
11 you talk about the total number of cases denied.  
12 I just wanted to make sure that everybody's aware  
13 here that in the total approved cases there's a  
14 couple of cases that we have done dose  
15 reconstructions on and sent back that were  
16 approved.

17           MR. TURCIC: Absolutely.

18           MR. ELLIOTT: These are skin cancer cases.

19           MR. TURCIC: Exactly.

20           DR. ZIEMER: Thank you. Richard?

21           MR. ESPINOSA: Yeah, as far as outreach, I  
22 know pretty much all the local unions have  
23 newsletters that go out on a monthly basis, and I  
24 would imagine that all the internationals have  
25 magazines that go out on a monthly basis to reach

1 a lot of the people.

2 MR. TURCIC: We've found that what works the  
3 best is the local unions and -- 'cause a lot of  
4 times they'll have, you know -- they'll have the  
5 contact list that, you know, the internationals  
6 don't. So we -- we try whenever we can to also  
7 get the -- and we've done a number of direct  
8 mailings, you know, with the local unions -- and  
9 are willing to do that any time we can.

10 DR. ZIEMER: Pete, I was impressed by the  
11 remarkable reduction in initial claims processing  
12 time for this fiscal year. But it also at the  
13 same time raised a question. For example, on the  
14 AWEs you've gone from 183 days to 99, but since  
15 we're only four months or so into the fiscal year,  
16 how -- how do you account -- there can be no  
17 claims 180 days old this year anyway, so --

18 MR. TURCIC: Yeah -- yeah, there can.

19 DR. ZIEMER: How --

20 MR. TURCIC: Let me explain what the num--  
21 where the number --

22 DR. ZIEMER: So I'm really asking how you  
23 count them.

24 MR. TURCIC: Yeah, I'm sorry. That's a good  
25 point. It's -- we count it when it is processed,

1 no matter when it came in. So whatever quarter --

2 DR. ZIEMER: So the completed processing --

3 MR. TURCIC: It's -- yeah --

4 DR. ZIEMER: -- so far this --

5 MR. TURCIC: Yeah, so -- so -- and all the  
6 claims, you know, on the average, the claims that  
7 reach that -- that level of processing started, on  
8 the average, 99 days prior to that.

9 DR. ZIEMER: Gotcha. So it really is  
10 comparing completed claims to completed claims.

11 MR. TURCIC: Yeah, and that has been the  
12 trend really for about the last three quarters.  
13 It was the beginning -- the beginning of FY 2003  
14 we had a effort to work off our backlog, and so we  
15 came up with a plan for our district offices to  
16 focus on those claims. We worked off that  
17 backlog, which -- you know, 'cause we started out  
18 with something like, you know, 20,000 claims on  
19 day one. And when those got worked off, then that  
20 added to the average time in the beginning of that  
21 year.

22 DR. ZIEMER: Thank you, Pete, for the very  
23 informative presentation.

24 The Chair is going to declare a 10-minute  
25 comfort break before our next speaker, and so

1 let's recess till five after 11:00.

2 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

3 **SITE PROFILE STATUS**

4 **DR. ZIEMER:** We will come back to order.  
5 We're going to have a session now dealing with  
6 site profile status. Jim Neton will be the  
7 presenter from NIOSH. Jim, you have the floor.

8 **DR. NETON:** Thank you, Dr. Ziemer. Good  
9 morning. It's my pleasure to present to you an  
10 update on the status of our site profiles. It's  
11 an area I think we've made some fairly significant  
12 progress in a number of efforts, and I've just  
13 outlined here the three subtopics that I'd like to  
14 discuss during my presentation. That is, one,  
15 where are we with the site profiles, progress-  
16 wise. What have we done since the last Board  
17 meeting.

18 Also to talk a little bit about the status of  
19 the worker input effort. At the October meeting  
20 in St. Louis the Board requested that NIOSH draft  
21 a plan related to developing worker input or  
22 obtaining worker input on the site profiles.

23 And thirdly, I'd like to go off in a little  
24 bit of a different direction, talk about examples  
25 of dose reconstructions using what's -- what we

1 | call complex-wide technical basis documents. I  
2 | think this came up at the Board meeting in Las  
3 | Vegas, and I thought -- I think the Board was  
4 | interested in hearing a presentation -- an example  
5 | of one of those dose reconstructions, so I'm  
6 | prepared to discuss that in some detail this  
7 | morning, as well.

8 |         Just as a reminder -- you've seen this slide  
9 | I think a couple of times, but I just want to  
10 | reiterate that -- what a site profile is. They're  
11 | a limited-scope document specific for a site.  
12 | They are essentially a road map to be used by dose  
13 | reconstructors that contain site-specific  
14 | information -- TLD measurement detection limits,  
15 | exchange frequencies, that sort of stuff. And  
16 | what it does is help standardize interpretation of  
17 | data. As Dr. Toohy mentioned earlier this  
18 | morning, we have a number of dose reconstructors  
19 | working on this project in various parts of the  
20 | country, so they need some sort of standardized  
21 | documentation to refer to when they are doing  
22 | these dose reconstructions so that we have some  
23 | consistency in our approach. Again, basically  
24 | used as a handbook. And as important, they are  
25 | dynamic documents. We do our best effort to

1 obtain and retrieve all possible sources of  
2 information that we can. However, we cannot  
3 predict that something won't come out of the  
4 woodwork in one of these data capture efforts or a  
5 claimant might provide something, so we are  
6 committed to reviewing these things on an as-  
7 needed basis and updating them as new information  
8 becomes available that may change the dose  
9 reconstruction effort for a particular site.

10 As you recall, there were 15 DOE facilities  
11 being worked on in parallel by ORAU. This is a  
12 fairly huge effort, a large number of people  
13 working on this, a number of good HPs out there.  
14 The 15 were -- represent a combination of the  
15 biggest sites -- you know, the ones where we have  
16 a lot of claims, also, but also some of the sites  
17 where we have information that was readily  
18 available and we could move forward with them. If  
19 we complete these 15 DOE facilities, we'll have  
20 documents that address about 77 percent of the  
21 claimants. So you know, with 15 DOE site profiles  
22 done, that will allow us -- at least theoretically  
23 -- to move forward on processing claims for almost  
24 80 percent of the claims.

25 Where we're at right now is over -- if you'll



1 recall, a site profile for the major DOE sites is  
2 a six-section document. They're called Technical  
3 Basis Documents, so six Technical Basis Documents  
4 make up a site profile. ORAU has completed 85  
5 percent of the individual sections, or they're  
6 under review. So essentially what I'm saying is  
7 they're either in draft form or approved and  
8 completed. So the major work has been done on 85  
9 percent of these chapters. I think that's a  
10 pretty good start. I've got a slide after this  
11 that'll show it a little more graphically.

12 On the complex-wide documents we've actually  
13 developed a few documents to help us move some  
14 claims through the process, even if we don't have  
15 a site profile. I believe the Department of  
16 Energy complex-wide profile or -- profile was  
17 discussed at the Las Vegas meeting, and I'll get  
18 into that a little later. It's a little bit of a  
19 different flavor document. It's not specific to  
20 the site, but they use certain maximizing  
21 assumptions that we can use for specific blocks of  
22 claimants. There are two complex-wide documents  
23 out there now. One is the complex-wide document  
24 that addresses Department of Energy facilities,  
25 and we also have a complex-wide document that

1 addresses Atomic Weapons Employers.

2           Okay, this little graph just displays where  
3 we are. If you notice, there's sections 2 through  
4 6 labeled here. I didn't include section one.  
5 Those are typically executive summary type  
6 sections. They're not really subject to delays  
7 based on availability of data and that sort of  
8 thing. They kind of naturally come along for the  
9 ride after these five major sections are  
10 completed. But the important thing to point out  
11 on this slide are the green dots. The green dots  
12 indicate that the -- that chapter is either  
13 approved and out there on our web site or  
14 currently in the hands of OCAS undergoing comment  
15 resolution -- review and comment resolution. So  
16 you can see three, four, five -- six of them --  
17 all but six -- nine of those sections are in our  
18 hands or out there and approved. And of the ones  
19 that are -- the ones that are green, 24 of those  
20 sections actually are already out there on our web  
21 site, so about a third of them are actually  
22 already out there and published -- or soon to be  
23 published. They may have just been released in  
24 the last couple of days.

25           The blue squares represent the ones that are

1 actually drafted and in ORAU review. So we've got  
2 a number of them that are just about ready to come  
3 over to OCAS for review. But the important thing  
4 is the data capture efforts, the collection, the  
5 writing has been done. They are in the process of  
6 being refined.

7 And the red triangles represent that the  
8 draft is not complete yet, not in ORAU internal  
9 review. However, since I developed this slide a  
10 couple of days ago, two of the red dots have now  
11 become blue. This one is now internal ORAU  
12 review, that one is the Los Alamos environmental  
13 dose chapter, and the X-10 internal dose chapter  
14 is in ORAU review. So the only ones remaining  
15 with a red triangle right now is the X-10 external  
16 dosimetry chapter.

17 So a lot of progress has been made. I think  
18 you recall -- you know, we were hoping to get  
19 these all completed by the end of the calendar  
20 year this last year. We're pretty close. We're a  
21 little bit off and there's been some reasons for  
22 delays, but we're not too far off the mark.

23 Okay, what's the site profile status for the  
24 AWEs. There are of course a lot more of those.  
25 There are several hundred plus AWEs out there. We

1 | have completed at least some of them -- Bethlehem  
2 | Steel, Blockson Chemical, Huntington Pilot Plant,  
3 | Mallinckrodt. We have out on our web site,  
4 | although I will say that some of these have  
5 | sections that are marked "reserved", and by  
6 | reserved, that means that there is some issue that  
7 | is preventing us from completing that particular  
8 | section. It could -- that could come from a num--  
9 | for a number of different reasons, but we still  
10 | publish them with the idea that claims that can be  
11 | done, even though those sections are still  
12 | reserved, we'll move them out. And in fact we  
13 | have done that for a number of these facilities.

14 |         The AWE -- I mentioned that we have this  
15 | complex-wide TBD for uranium facilities, and I'll  
16 | discuss that after I'm done with this part of this  
17 | presentation. We have two new ones that just came  
18 | in, Aliquippa Forge and the Tennessee Valley  
19 | Authority, and they are in our hands right now and  
20 | currently being reviewed.

21 |         There's a large number of AWE profiles that  
22 | are currently being worked on by ORAU. I believe  
23 | there's somewhere in the vicinity of 24 different  
24 | ones that are being looked at right now. There's  
25 | about 24 that are being looked at and have actual

1 | scheduled completion dates.

2 |       There is a point of diminishing returns,  
3 | though, when you work on these AWE site profiles.  
4 | Many of these sites have small numbers of people,  
5 | so we are currently undergoing deliberation as to  
6 | how best to handle a lot of the remainder of small  
7 | sites. It may well be that we end up having  
8 | addenda placed on the back of some of the ones  
9 | that are already completed because the processes  
10 | were very similar. Just with some minor  
11 | modifications we could accommodate the other  
12 | facilities.

13 |       I just briefly want to talk about the status  
14 | of the site profile rollouts with the worker input  
15 | effort that we've put in place since the October  
16 | Board meeting. We have a worker input plan  
17 | drafted. It's currently undergoing review, but it  
18 | does establish a worker outreach group. We've  
19 | tasked ORAU with heading up the effort for us.  
20 | Some of you know Bill Murray that works for ORAU  
21 | now is heading up that effort in their shop, along  
22 | with Vern McDougal, who's a subcontractor to ORAU.  
23 | So we have the plan drafted, and it provides a  
24 | framework for obtaining worker input. We are  
25 | encouraging workers to provide input to the e-mail

1 sites -- addresses that we've established for each  
2 of these documents. There are individual e-mail  
3 addresses that a person could mail into and  
4 provide written comments. We're also encouraging  
5 input prior to the release, when possible. Of  
6 course we're moving these things fast and furious  
7 because we're trying to get claims processed in a  
8 timely manner. But where possible, we're  
9 encouraging input before the release. And of  
10 course after the release we -- in cases now we're  
11 going around the sites and having meetings with  
12 union representatives.

13 Public briefings are planned when necessary.  
14 There are some sites that may not have organized  
15 labor representatives, some of these AWEs for  
16 example, or stakeholders, survivors may require  
17 some briefing, so we are open to having public  
18 briefings as necessary.

19 DR. ZIEMER: Jim, could I interrupt here?

20 DR. NETON: Sure.

21 DR. ZIEMER: It's safe to assume that the SRS  
22 meeting was last November rather than scheduled?

23 DR. NETON: Sorry, yes.

24 DR. ZIEMER: Okay. Thank you.

25 DR. NETON: Yeah, my mistake. Appreciate the

1 input.

2 And we have adopted a format of taking  
3 minutes at these meetings and -- with the sign-in  
4 sheets at the meetings, making them available to  
5 participants so that they can review what the  
6 salient points were discussed at these meetings  
7 and have a record for them. And also we hope to  
8 develop a list from these sign-in sheets of  
9 contacts for future -- future discussions, as  
10 necessary.

11 As Dr. Ziemer pointed out, the meetings are  
12 ongoing. We met at SRS in late November -- or  
13 early November. And Hanford, we were at the --  
14 there on January 13th and 14th with -- had two  
15 meetings, one with the metal trades and one with  
16 the construction trades. Both of those meetings I  
17 will say I think were very productive for us. At  
18 the SRS briefing we had a -- some very good verbal  
19 input from the workers. We heard some interesting  
20 things, and as a result of that, we are committed  
21 to looking at the site profile for Savannah River  
22 to address the unique needs and exposure  
23 conditions of the construction workers.

24 At Hanford we also had some verbal feedback  
25 that was useful to us, and we are looking at