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. Toohey 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