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November 3, 2010

The Honorable Pete Olson
United States House of Representatives
514 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Olson:

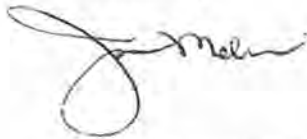
This letter is in response to your letter of October 1, 2010, inquiry to the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH) regarding the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) petition on the Texas City Chemicals site submitted to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA). Under EEOICPA, the ABRWH is responsible for reviewing NIOSH's evaluations of SEC petition evaluations and making a recommendation to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on whether or not the class under consideration should be added to the Special Exposure Cohort.

NIOSH has revised its original evaluation report on the Texas City site and provided it to the petitioners and the Board. This revision is in response to concerns raised by the Board in its review of an evaluation report for another SEC petition. The Board's work group responsible for reviewing the report is meeting on November 5, 2010 to discuss the NIOSH report prior to our November Board meeting. The full Board plans to discuss the Texas City report at our mid November Board meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I expect that the Board will be able to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding the Texas City site at this November Board meeting.

The Board appreciates your interest and concerns about this matter. If we can provide any further assistance, please contact us.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and the activities of this Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Melius". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a smaller loop at the end.

James M. Melius, M.D., Dr. Ph.
Chairman, Advisory Board on Radiation and
Worker Health