



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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March 3, 2009

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The Honorable Charles E. Johnson
Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 0101 concerning workers at the Hood Building in Cambridge, MA, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to All employees of the DOE, its predecessor agencies, and their contractors and subcontractors who worked in the Hood Building in Cambridge, MA, from May 9, 1946 through December 31, 1963, 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 SEC.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- From 1946 through 1963, the Hood Building is classified as a Department of Energy (DOE) facility because of research involving uranium, thorium, and beryllium performed by both the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Nuclear Metals, Inc. (NMI), personnel.
- NIOSH lacks sufficient information, which includes dosimetry data, workplace monitoring data, and source term data, to allow it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the potential internal exposures to enriched uranium and thorium to which the proposed class may have been subjected. The Board concurs with this determination.

- NIOSH reviewed evidence that indicates some workers in the proposed class may have accumulated chronic radiation exposures through intakes of uranium and thorium and from direct exposure to radioactive materials. Therefore, NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation at this facility during the covered time period. The Board concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our February 18, 2009 Board meeting, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where this Special Exposure Cohort class was discussed. The documentation includes transcripts of the deliberations, copies of the petition, and the NIOSH review thereof, and related documents distributed by NIOSH. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul L. Ziemer". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chair

Enclosure