



## ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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December 18, 2008

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The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
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 0135 concerning workers at Metallurgical Laboratory, Chicago, IL, 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 AWE employees who worked at the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago, Illinois, from August 13, 1942 through June 30, 1946, 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 in the SEC.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- The Metallurgical Laboratory was involved in the earliest research and development work for the manufacture of atomic weapons.
- NIOSH was unable to locate sufficient monitoring data or information on radiological operations at this facility in order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstructions for the potential internal and external exposures to plutonium, radium, fission products, uranium, and uranium progeny to which these workers may have been subjected. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation at this facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our December 16, 2008 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 Augusta, Georgia, 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, appearing to read "Paul L. Ziemer".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.  
Chair

Enclosure