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# ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

4676 Columbia Parkway, MS: C-46 Cincinnati, Ohio 45226 (513) 533-6825

April 9, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius Secretary Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 00136 concerning workers at the Electro Metallurgical site in Niagara Falls, NY under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13.

The Board respectfully recommends that SEC status be accorded to:

"All employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and their contractors and subcontractors who worked at the Electro Metallurgical site in Niagara Falls, New York, from August 13, 1942 through December 31, 1947, 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 Special Exposure Cohort."

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- Individuals employed at the Electro Metallurgical site during the time period in question worked on uranium metal fabrication and scrap recovery related to nuclear weapons production.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) review of available monitoring data, as well as available process and source term information for this facility found that NIOSH lacked the sufficient information to allow it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the potential internal exposures to uranium which employees at this facility may have been subjected during the time period from August 13, 1942 through December 31, 1947. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these Electro Metallurgical employees during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

The Secretary April 9, 2012

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the February 28 to 29, 2012, Board meeting held in Oakland, California, the Board recommends that this class be added to the SEC.

Enclosed is the documentation from the Board meeting(s) where this SEC class was discussed. The documentation includes copies of the petition, the NIOSH review thereof, and related materials. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

[Signature on file]

James M. Melius, M.D., Dr. PH Chairman, ABRWH

**Enclosure**