

GENERAL ATOMICS DRAFT

The Board recommends that the following letter be transmitted to the Secretary of DHHS within 21 days. Should the Chair become aware of any issue that, in his judgment, would preclude the transmittal of this letter within that time period, the Board requests that he promptly inform the Board of the delay and the reasons for this delay and that he immediately work with NIOSH to schedule an emergency meeting of the Board to discuss this issue.

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated SEC Petition-00064 concerning workers at the General Atomics Torrey Pines Mesa facility in La Jolla, California under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 and 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) be accorded to all AWE employees who were monitored or should have been monitored for exposure to ionizing radiation while working at the following General Atomics locations: Science Laboratories A, B, and C (Building 2); Experimental Building (Building 9); Maintenance (Building 10); Service Building (Building 11); Buildings 21 and 22; Hot Cell Facility (Building 23); Waste Yard (Buildings 25 and 26); Experimental Area (Buildings 27 and 27-1); LINAC Complex (Building 30); HTGR-TCF (Building 31); Fusion Building (Building 33); Fusion Doublet III (Building 34); SV-A (Building 37); SV-B (Building 39); and SV-D (no building number) for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days from January 1, 1960, through December 31, 1969, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the SEC. The Board notes that although NIOSH found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, they believe that they are able to reconstruct components of the external dose and of the internal dose (those from uranium and tritium for some time periods), and therefore individuals with non-presumptive cancers may be considered for partial dose reconstructions.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- People working in the above listed areas of the General Atomics facility in La Jolla, California were exposed to radiation from uranium, thorium, plutonium, and other radioactive materials while performing tasks for the Atomic Energy Commission. In reviewing the available monitoring and other data for these operations, NIOSH found that it did not have access to sufficient information, including personnel dosimetry, workplace monitoring data, or sufficient process and radiological source information, that would allow it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the internal radiation doses from thorium and some other radionuclide exposures for General Atomic employees for the time period January 1, 1960 through December 31, 1969. The Board concurs with this determination.

- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation in the above listed areas of the General Atomics facility in La Jolla, California within the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Naperville, Illinois and from the Board meeting by conference call on January 11, 2007 where this special exposure cohort was discussed. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

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