

Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational Safety and
Health
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
Teleconference Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2019

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., Eastern
Daylight Time, by Teleconference.

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Members Present:

Henry A. Anderson, Member
Josie Beach, Member
Bradley P. Clawson, Member
R. William Field, Member
David Kotelchuck, Member
David B. Richardson, Member
Genevieve S. Roessler, Member
Phillip Schofield, Member
Loretta R. Valerio, Member
Paul L. Ziemer, Member
Ted Katz, Designated Federal Official

Also Present:

Adams, Nancy, NIOSH Contractor
Barrie, Terrie, ANWAG
Buchanan, Ron, SC&A
Burgos, Zaida, NIOSH
Calhoun, Grady, DCAS
Crawford, Chris, DOL
Fitzgerald, Joe, SC&A
Hughes, Lara, DCAS
Lewis, Greg, DOE
Rafky, Michael, HHS
Rutherford, Lavon, DCAS
Stiver, John, SC&A
Taulbee, Tim, DCAS

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Proceedings

(11:01 a.m.)

Welcome/Roll Call

Mr. Katz: This is the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health. This is our teleconference to prepare for our December Board meeting, which is on the 11th out in California.

We don't have any conflict of interest issues for the sort of planning meeting that we have on these teleconferences. So I don't need to address that.

Let's run through roll call. And if I know you're there, I'll say it, you don't have to.

(Roll call)

Recording August 2019 Meeting Absentee Votes

Mr. Katz: I think we can get rolling. The first item is recording the votes for the August Board meeting for the two SEC petitions that were acted on, and those were both passed in August.

We had a couple of absentee Members for the last vote, which was on the Y-12 petition. And that's Dr. Kotelchuck and Dr. Anderson. But they both voted almost immediately afterwards and in favor. So the Y-12 vote was unanimous with one recusal. That was Dr. Lockey, who was recused from that action.

And just to remind you, that class recommendation is for the period from 1977 through 1979, so two and a half years, through July 31, '79. And that action has gone up to the Secretary for the Secretary's consideration. So that's where that stands.

And we also had a vote, just to remind you, on West Valley Demonstration Project petition. That was for adding an SEC period from '69 to '73. And that, too, was unanimous with no recusals. That went forward to HHS as well. So that's -- those are both sitting with HHS, so we should see action soon.

It sounds like we have someone on hold or something. But it's not too disturbing, I think I'll just get through this. Zaida, if you're on the phone, if you could see about cutting whatever line is on hold.

Ms. Burgos: Yes, I will.

Mr. Katz: Thank you. Okay. So that takes care of that. And the next item is the SEC Petition Status Update from Lavon Rutherford.

Special Exposure Cohort Petition Status Update

Mr. Rutherford: Alright. Okay. Thanks, Ted.

I want to give a very short Special Exposure Cohort Update. We will not be presenting any new SEC evaluations at the December Board meeting.

There will be a significant update on the Savannah River Site SEC. But other than that and the standard Work Group updates, there will not be any more SEC activity.

As a side note, we did just receive a new petition from ANL-East.

(Telephonic interference)

Mr. Rutherford: Whoa, I don't know what happened there.

Mr. Katz: She just -- go ahead. Go ahead, Lavon.

Mr. Rutherford: Okay. Again, we did just receive a new petition from ANL-East. I'm sure I'll have an update on that petition status at the December Board meeting.

Other than that, that's about it. Any questions?

Mr. Katz: So, Lavon, can you just remind us? Are there any petitions that are in the evaluation stage that are likely to come up then in the spring?

Mr. Rutherford: Actually, the only new petition we have, other than ANL-East, is the Reduction Pilot

Plant, which is held up by Department of Labor evaluating the covered period.

But we do expect that we will have the Lawrence Livermore National Lab addendum ready for the April meeting. That will cover the remaining years on that petition. I think that's about it, though, Ted.

Updates from Work Groups and Subcommittees

Mr. Katz: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions for Lavon? Okay.

It's time now for any Work Group or Subcommittees who want to report out on what's happened or coming up. Now is a good time for that.

Member Kotelchuck: This is Dave Kotelchuck, DRRSC. A draft of the Secretary's report went out to folks from DRRSC following up on our discussion at our last meeting.

If there are any folks -- I've gotten a few responses. But if there are any folks who want to make corrections to the report or to the update of the report that was sent out to you, please do that in the next day or so.

Try to get it in if you will. Well, you've had it a while, end of business 10/18, two days from today. And then I will update it and get it ready with Ted to send to the Board for the December meeting.

Mr. Katz: Okay. Thanks, Dave. Other Work Groups have any reports? Okay.

Just to note then, to keep people abreast, we do have a couple -- several Work Group meetings already scheduled. One is Metals and Controls for late in the year. I don't recall the date right now. I think it's December --

Member Beach: January 9th.

Mr. Katz: Oh, January, sorry. Okay.

Member Beach: Yeah.

Mr. Katz: Okay. Good. And we also have a joint meeting of the SEC Issues Work Group, which focuses on the coworker modeling and the SRS Work Group, which focuses on SRS SEC issues right now, the joint meeting of them, the week before the Board meeting in December in Cincinnati. So those are scheduled.

And then I don't know whether we will have or not - - and maybe Paul could tell us whether we're going to have Work Group meetings prior to the Board meetings on Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, because that will be -- we will be giving a Work Group update in California in December on that.

Member Ziemer: Yeah, I think we need to hear from NIOSH on any new material that they --

Participant: Hello?

Member Ziemer: -- have ready. Yeah, can you hear me?

(Telephonic interference)

Mr. Katz: Someone on the line shouldn't be speaking. This is the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health call. Go ahead, Paul. Sorry.

Member Ziemer: Yeah, I was just going to say when we talk about plans for December meeting, we need to find out if there's any new information from NIOSH ready.

I think it would be good if we could have a Lawrence Livermore, or Lawrence Berkeley meeting before the December meeting. But it will depend on whether there's some new material for us as well from NIOSH.

Mr. Katz: Okay. And can someone from NIOSH just remind us where that stands with --

Mr. Calhoun: Tim can possibly give a better update than I can, but I'll go ahead. And I believe that we

are working on a few things. And I would have to get with Megan and find out-- or Dr. Lobaugh, and find out exactly the status. And I'll have her send you an email on that, Dr. Ziemer.

Member Ziemer: Yeah, and, you know, we have a number of items we can report on from where we were at our last meeting. And we will need a report I think at the meeting, and maybe we can kind of transition into that right now. We need a report from NIOSH on Lawrence Berkeley. And then I think we need a report from the Work Group on where we stand on the open issues.

But there were some additional items that were in process. And that's what we need to know.

Mr. Katz: Right. So I think the way we can do it, we can do it two ways here -- and I'm saying this mostly for Lavon's benefit, for when he talks to Megan.

Paul can give an update of what the Work Group has already completed so far in terms of review and closing out issues and issues still on the table.

And then Megan could speak after Paul about what's still standing and where they are with that work, you know, or we can have a Work Group meeting, and Megan can present on all that to the Work Group, and Paul can handle that all. We could do it either way. But whatever works out.

Member Ziemer: Yeah, and I can work with Megan on what we present at the meeting. But, again, some of that will depend on where they are in terms of the open items that we're still expecting some feedback on.

Mr. Katz: Right. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Paul, and thank you, Bomber.

Okay. Then, so that takes care of updates from Work Groups unless I have any others. I'm not hearing any.

Plans for December Board Meeting. So here's what I have for the December Board meeting.

By the way, first things first, the Board meeting is on the 11th. But on the 10th we do have confirmation from the site that we can have a site visit by the Board members. And we have so far very good participation from the Board members.

(Note: At this point, the court reporter temporarily lost connection to the call. Mr. Katz's comments are inserted here. They are a reconstruction from an email sent by Mr. Katz to the court reporter after the call was completed.)

Plans for the December 2019 Board Meeting

Mr. Katz: Plans for the upcoming December Board meeting.

On the 10th, the day before the meeting, we will have a tour of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. DOE has confirmed we can have this tour and we have very good participation from Board members and staff. If there are any Board members who wish to attend and haven't yet let me know, please do so this week.

I'm going to review the non-routine items for the Board meeting on the 11th. It will be a one-day meeting.

We have a session on completed dose reconstruction procedure reviews. It has been a while since the Board has taken up any of the reviews that have been completed by the Procedures Review Subcommittee so it's good to get back on track with these. There will be three reviews. SC&A has identified candidates and I'm just waiting for NIOSH to confirm whether these make sense as priorities. The intent is to do the most important ones first with respect to the number of claims they affect or the number of facilities. I'll report to you further when we've identified the specific procedures.

We have a session to review the draft report to the Secretary, HHS on our dose reconstruction case reviews. This is the third of these reports and has definitely benefitted from the two that have preceded it. I think it is in very good shape. So this is also a possible action item for December.

Then we have a rather large session that relates to the joint work group meetings we discussed earlier for the SRS Work Group and the SEC Issues Work Group. The session has two parts but I've bundled them in one session since they are related and the same parties are reporting out.

The first part of this session is for the Board to consider its review of the Coworker Modeling Guidelines. As you will recall, the Board tentatively approved these guidelines but wanted a concrete demonstration of them and selected SRS as a possibility, as SRS needed coworker models. These coworker models are completed and SC&A has been reviewing them so this is an opportunity for the Board to complete this guideline review.

The second part of this session is not an action item but an update on the work of reviewing the SRS SEC petition. This entails more than just the adequacy of the coworker models per se, but also their applicability to certain subcontractor groups at SRS and related matters. So this large joint session addressing SRS matters should be helpful preparation for the Board to possibly act on the SRS petition in April, and there will likely be more work group meetings between these two Board meetings as well for that purpose. As you know, the SRS petition review work is extensive and complicated.

And finally, there will be an update on the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Site Profile review, as Paul discussed earlier. This will be an opportunity to bring the public up to date on this Board review and also solicit public input on some matters remaining to be addressed and reviewed.

And that's it. Any questions?

(Note: At this point, the call is reconnected, and the transcript resumes from the actual call.)

Court Reporter: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Katz: So, I do not, you will note, have on the agenda Santa Susana Area 4 again. We've had that on our agenda for the past year, pretty much. And let me just tell you where that stands.

I have communicated with the petitioner on that since our Board meeting. And the petitioner, as some of you may recall, has a FOIA into DOE, which has been there quite some time and was supposedly to be completed by or before November.

In exchanging emails with her, what she's told me is that part of it would be expedited and previously she had said it was all due in November, but she didn't have a date for when that would come in. But none of it's in right now.

I didn't think it would make much sense to put this on the agenda again given our Board's discussion -- some Board members have given views about how much information is adequate on this petition. So let's let that information come in.

I can note that both SC&A and NIOSH have gone through the materials that the petitioner submitted in August. Although they hadn't reported out on those materials, they've informally both said the same thing about those, which is that they don't provide information to support the notion that TRUMP-S was restarted at the site. It does not appear to be the case, or that there are other operational activities in americium and thorium for that latter period. But there will be reports from them.

And so I expect Santa Susana to be on the agenda for April. And then perhaps that can be packaged with the other Santa Susana site SEC, which is still in the works. And I'm not clear on when that will be ready. But perhaps that will be ready, and we can put them together in the session in April.

So any questions for me for agenda items, any of these?

Member Ziemer: Ted, this is Ziemer. I wonder if you can estimate at this time how long the meeting will be. Do you anticipate going more than midday on the second day, not counting --

Mr. Katz: Oh, I'm sorry.

Member Ziemer: -- Tuesday? We'd have all day Wednesday. What about Thursday?

Mr. Katz: Yeah, so the meeting is just -- I'm sorry. I thought I said that. But I probably wasn't clear. The meeting is just one day.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

Mr. Katz: Yes, the end of the day on Wednesday we'll be finished.

Member Ziemer: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

Mr. Katz: Yeah. You're welcome. Any other questions? Alright. Then not hearing any --

Ms. Adams: Ted?

Mr. Katz: Yes.

Ms. Adams: Ted?

Mr. Katz: Yes.

Ms. Adams: Ted, this is Nancy Adams.

Mr. Katz: Yes.

Ms. Adams: Just an update that the recommendations and the SEC packages for both Y-12 and the West Valley Demonstration Project have gone into the Secretary. And so the Secretary has got a due date of October 25th for decisions on those designations -- those recommended designations.

Adjourn

Mr. Katz: Okay. Thanks, Nancy. Anything else? Okay. Then I think we can adjourn. Thank you all for attending.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 11:26 a.m.)