

United States of America
Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational Safety and
Health
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
133rd Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2020

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, via teleconference, Ted Katz, Acting Chair, presiding.

Present:

Ted Katz, Acting Chair, Designated Federal
Officer

Henry Anderson, Member

Josie Beach, Member

Bradley P. Clawson, Member

R. William Field, Member

David Kotelchuck, Member

James E. Lockey, Member

David B. Richardson, Member

Genevieve S. Roessler, Member

Phillip Schofield, Member

Loretta R. Valerio, Member

Paul L. Ziemer, Member

Also Present:

Nancy Adams, NIOSH Contractor

Terrie Barrie, ANWAG

Robert Barton, SC&A

Ronald Buchanan, SC&A

Grady Calhoun, NIOSH ORAU

Lara Hughes, NIOSH ORAU

Jeffrey Kotsch, DOL

Jenny Lin-Naylor, HHS

LaVon Rutherford, NIOSH ORAU

John Stiver, SC&A

Timothy Taulbee, NIOSH ORAU

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Proceedings

(11:02 a.m.)

Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Katz: It's time, so let me say welcome to everybody. This is the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health, and this is our -- three times a year we have a teleconference to prepare for our three in-person meetings around the calendar.

And that next in-person meeting is in April out west, actually, in Washington State. So welcome, everyone.

There is an agenda. There is an agenda for the meeting, but this is really very simple, and it's not worth anybody's time to go and find the agenda on the NIOSH website. Simple enough to follow along.

So let's go first to roll call, and there's no issues of conflict of interest with this because it's literally basically just an administrative meeting. So we don't need to address conflict of interest.

I've heard a number of the Board members, so I'll just note them as I get to them, but the ones I haven't heard I'll ask for.

(Roll call.)

Chair Katz: So again, welcome to you all. And there's a little static on the line. I don't know what that is, but if you would all, except when someone's speaking, mute your phones, that would be helpful probably. If you don't have a mute button, press *6 to mute your phone and *6 to come off of mute.

And this should be a relatively brief meeting, but first on the agenda we have, I think, the update from LaVon.

Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition Status Update

Mr. Rutherford: All right. Thanks, Ted. This is going to be another short report. We will not be presenting any new SEC evaluations at the April Board meeting.

We have one new petition under evaluation. That's the -- for the Reduction Pilot Plant in Huntington, West Virginia. We do expect to complete that evaluation in late April, however I don't think it's going to give us enough time to have it for the April meeting. Right now the tight -- it's on a tight schedule and looks like it's going to end up right at the end of April. So we do expect that we will present that report at the August Advisory Board meeting.

We also expect to present an addendum for Lawrence Livermore National Lab at the August Board meeting that addendum will address the remaining years of an existing petition.

So, again, there will be no new evaluation reports at the -- presented at the April meeting. That's all I have.

Chair Katz: Okay, great. Thanks.

We still have some -- a serious static issue from somebody's line, if everybody could mute.

Okay, super. That's LaVon. And now on to, again, if any Work Groups or Subcommittees want to report on what they're up to or what's coming their way, now's the time for that.

Updates from Work Groups and Subcommittees

Member Clawson: Ted, this is Brad.

Chair Katz: Yeah.

Member Clawson: We've got our meeting for Savannah River coming up next month on the 26th.

Chair Katz: Right. Thanks, Brad. Yeah, and that's an in-person meeting in Cincinnati for everyone.

Member Kotelchuck: Dave Kotelchuck, Dose Reconstruction Reviews Subcommittee. I'm off of my CDC computer temporarily as my -- as you know, Ted, my smart card has expired, and I'm waiting.

I was wondering if there was any update when we might begin again on our meetings of the DRR.

Chair Katz: Right, Dave. And so I've been looking for that as well, but we haven't heard back yet. So I know Rose is on that, and she was looking into -- I mean I think the question is how long it'll take for Grady's crew to be able to review once they have in hand the cases from -- which I think they have now, actually, the cases from --

Member Kotelchuck: Okay.

Chair Katz: -- from SC&A, the review cases. They have those cases now, so it's just a matter of how long it takes them to do the Type 1 reviews or whatever.

Member Kotelchuck: Good.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

Mr. Calhoun: This is Grady, and we just got those a couple of days ago, so I'll check with Scott, and I'll get back with you guys once he has a chance to at least give it a guess.

Member Kotelchuck: Good, good. For the next week or so, please send it to my personal email, [redacted].

Chair Katz: And if you just give us a liberal guess, giving yourself some cushion there, then we can -- we need two months to schedule it anyway with the Federal Register, so that'll be good.

Member Kotelchuck: Good.

Chair Katz: Yeah, thanks, Grady.

Member Kotelchuck: Thank you.

Member Beach: Hi, Ted. I'll say something about Metals and Controls. This is Josie.

So Metals and Controls met in January. We met on January 9. Our next meeting is now scheduled for April 13. I believe, LaVon, I don't know if you can give me an update on the phone. We were looking to schedule one more interview with an individual between now and the April 13 meeting. How's that going?

Mr. Rutherford: That is going really well. Actually we are in communication. Just briefly, there's a health physicist that worked on the HFIR, which is the High Flux Reactor during the petition period. That's not a covered activity, but we wanted to get some insight from that health physicist as to maybe they may know of -- have a little more information on the activities and things that took place during that time period.

So we just stumbled upon this person, so we have been in contact, and we are looking at trying to get that scheduled in the next couple of weeks. And it's going to -- we're setting it up so that the Board members or Work Group members and SC&A can call in on that. We will also give the opportunity, in addition to our questions, that the Work Group or SC&A have additional questions, they may ask at the same time.

So I expect that you'll hear something, each of the Work Group members, sometime in the next three or four days.

Member Beach: Okay, thanks, LaVon. And so we will be reporting on Metals and Controls at the April Board meeting. I don't know that we'll be ready for a vote or anything, but we'll at least update the Board on where we're at.

Chair Katz: Thanks, Josie.

Member Ziemer: This is Ziemer. I'll give you a quick report on TBD-6000. We met through teleconference a couple weeks ago dealing with Superior Steel. We'll have a report at the April meeting.

Chair Katz: Thank you, Paul. Andy, do you want to report, too?

Member Anderson: Yeah. On the 6001 group, we have a number of issues and one report coming up at the April meeting.

Plans for the April 2020 Board Meeting

Chair Katz: Right, super. Any others want to report?

Okay then, great. Thank you. And let's go on to the April Board meeting. So I have to get an agenda up to HHS, so let me run through what I have.

So aside from the usuals, I'll just speak to the -- what's not part of the usual. So early on, I'm glad we have Jeff on the phone from DOL. We have a DOL, always of course, the program update, but this is, in this case, going to be focused to what we discussed at the last Board meeting, the claims appeals process and the experience in claim rate-forecasting, which we discussed at the last meeting, wanting to have a discussion of that from DOL.

And, Jeff, was that -- I've given a half an hour for that. Does that sound reasonable, Jeff?

Mr. Kotsch: That's probably -- Ted, that's probably a little long, but, you know, certainly we could go 20 minutes.

Chair Katz: Okay, I mean I -- that's leaving time for the Board to ask you questions.

Mr. Kotsch: Yeah. No, that's fine.

Chair Katz: You certainly don't have to fill that all,

and we wouldn't want you to fill that all with presentation, but given the -- and that also allows for you to present a little bit of the normal update, although I think you can abbreviate that as much as you want.

Mr. Kotsch: Yeah, we will. Yeah, that sounds fine.

Chair Katz: That's great. Thanks so much, Jeff. We really appreciate you doing that.

Okay, so then we have that set. That's super. And then this is what Dr. Anderson, Andy, was saying, we have the -- he's using the old name for the Work Group, TBD-6001 is no longer, but the Uranium Refining AWE Work Group has completed its review of the W.R. Grace in Erwin, Tennessee, Site Profile. And so that's what it's going to be reporting out at this meeting, which is great.

And then we have from Paul, TBD-6000 Work Group, we have -- they are going to be reporting out on the Superior Steel SEC petition. So that's a petition for possible actions at this meeting.

And then following that, following lunch, we have an update on Metals and Controls. It's not set for action because a lot of work has been done since you last heard about Metals and Controls, and they want you to have the opportunity to digest all the work that's been done without having to act on that in -- all in one meeting.

So the Work Group may or may not have a recommendation, but it won't be on the agenda for action at this meeting. But perhaps it would be for action or, I think, probably likely be for action at the August meeting, but it'd be -- this would be a very thorough update, and I've given it the usual hour and a half time for the SEC update.

And then we have, finishing out the first day, an update on the Hanford SEC petition, and I'm not sure all of what the substance of that will be, but NIOSH has released a report following up on a lot of

the open issues, and SC&A's going over that with a fine-toothed comb right now, and so there should be a Hanford meeting, which we should -- Work Group meeting which we need to arrange. It hasn't been scheduled yet, before the Board meetings, but there can be a thorough presentation to the local people there as well, that's why we're there in Hanford, on how we're doing with the Hanford SEC.

So that finishes out the first day. Then on the second day we just have the morning, and you should be done by 11:00 at the latest. The first part we have is Savannah River Site petition. We have a Work Group scheduled, as Brad mentioned, and so this is up for, as we discussed at the December Board meeting, this is up for a possible vote on at least a portion of that petition, and we'll see how this works out.

But we have a full-day face-to-face meeting of the SEC Issues Work Group and the SRS Work Group together jointly again in March, which gives them plenty of time to prepare for the April meeting to hopefully be ready for some sort of action on this, at least in part. And in any event, another bringing the Board up-to-date in detail.

Board Correspondence

And then the last piece, and I've sent to you -- I sent you all an email with the last item on the agenda is Santa Susana Area IV. And I have it on the agenda because if I don't have it on the agenda the Board can't take it off the table at the meeting.

So it's on the agenda for this meeting. I've shared the correspondence from -- between the Petitioner and me and the Petitioner and LaVon on this matter. And as the Petitioner has said several times, the Petitioner would like this to await until the -- her FOIA is satisfied before the Board takes it up.

And you have reports from NIOSH and SC&A on their review of the documents that she submitted already and the issues she's raised. So it's the last

item on the agenda, and it's really then in your hands to decide whether you want to take it off the table or not. You can drop it if you want, you can take off the table and ask -- and I'll just explain to her that it's in your hands and I'm not promising that you won't un-table it and deal with it.

And there's, you know, reasons either way, to go either way. It's really for your judgment. So that's what I have here for a day and a half.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

Member Anderson: We're ready to close it out I think.

Chair Katz: Yeah, I think -- so it's -- well, it's on the agenda, so it's totally within your hands. The Board will have to un-table it, and you will vote to un-table it if that's the case, and act on it if you're ready to act on it. But I'm leaving it in your hands.

The other thing -- so well do we have any questions about the agenda?

Okay. Then the last thing I just wanted to tell you about which is a piece of good news is we still don't have a designated chair, I'm sorry to tell you, but probably no surprise, but we have recruited a DFO to follow behind me, and we had a very talented roster of applicants, I'm glad to say, and the person who was selected is talented and smart and will be a quick learner, and doesn't know about this program, but then none of the applicants did, but will be a quick learner and has a lot of experience aside from this in leading and as a team member of many teams, a leader of teams.

So and I think you'll be very happy with what she brings to the table. I can't name her because officialdom hasn't finished its business, but I wanted to let you know that, and she will introduce herself when she can, when she is official, and you can expect her to be -- I feel most of you know this at this point, I think, I can't travel right now for health

reasons, and I don't know what will change in March, so that could get better, I could be okay in March. I don't know.

But -- and I can't really plan that way, so she will be, in any event, at the Savannah River Site SEC Issues Work Group meeting in March, so a good number of you will get a chance to meet her in person or at least on the phone for that meeting, and she'll be on the call for the Work Group meeting, Metals and Controls Work Group meeting and the Hanford meeting, whenever that gets scheduled, so you'll get a little bit of a brush with her from those experiences.

And then perhaps people can get in a little early before the April Board meeting. She'll be at the April Board meeting for sure, and that'll be her first Board meeting. So anyway, I wanted to share that good news, and you'll hear more soon.

Member Clawson: Savannah River will be a good introduction.

Chair Katz: It'll be a dunk in the deep end I think. But that's good. That's a good way to get initiated, I think.

So anything else for the good of the order from anyone?

(No response)

Adjourn

Chair Katz: Okay, then. Well thanks, everybody.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 11:24 a.m.)