

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
Pinellas Plant Work Group
Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2026

Summary Proceedings

The Pinellas Plant Work Group (WG) meeting convened via teleconference/ videoconference at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), with Brad Clawson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Brad Clawson, Chair
Henry Anderson, Member
Josie Beach, Member
Nicole Martinez, Member
Paul Zeimer, Member

Non-Members

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Nancy Adams, NIOSH Contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Denise Brock, NIOSH Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Ombudsman
Ron Buchanan, SC&A
Nancy Chalmers, Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
Maddie Cook, NIOSH
Denise DeGarmo, SEC Petitioner Representative
Brian Gleckler, ORAU
Joseph Guido, ORAU
Donna Hand, SEC Petitioner Representative
Malia Holzberger, Department of Health and Human Services
Laura Hughes, NIOSH

Megan Lobaugh, NIOSH
Amy Mangel, SC&A
Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Charles Nelson, NIOSH
Mark Rolfes, NIOSH
LaVon Rutherford, NIOSH
Brant Ullsh, NIOSH
Dale and Kathy Aler, Public
Jack Edger, Public
Patricia Kenly, Public
Ken Silver, Public

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Pinellas Plant WG at 11:00 a.m. EST on January 29, 2026, via teleconference/videoconference. A roll call of all Pinellas Plant WG members confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Pinellas Plant WG members, federal staff, and contractors announced conflicts of interest during roll call. Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Brad Clawson, Pinellas Plant WG chair.

WG Chair/SC&A Remarks: Overview and Status of Pinellas Plant WG

The WG Chair opened the meeting by expressing dissatisfaction with NIOSH and SC&A efforts to investigate Pinellas' activities. He indicated that he favored an SEC designation.

SC&A presented their April 2025 Supplemental Review of SEC-0256 Petition Evaluation, which augments their June 2023 Interim Review of SEC-0256 Petition Evaluation. Their April 2025 Supplemental Review made 4 additional observations, which are numbered 14-17.

SC&A reviewed the Pinellas WG activity from the November 20, 2023, WG meeting that tasked SC&A to:

- Evaluate newly received petitioner material
- Respond to areas of particular concern to the WG
- Continue identifying and examining other relevant documents
- Issue a report to supplement its initial review report

SC&A provided an overview of the history of the Pinellas Plant and its radiation sources and the observations that they identified. SC&A examined additional documents since its June 2023 interim review report and found no new sources of radiation exposure or intakes requiring monitoring beyond existing measures at Pinellas.

SC&A reviewed government contracts for activities that could possibly have introduced new or different radiation sources at Pinellas and did not identify any required additional or new monitoring practices. In their interim review report, SC&A conducted further research using documents for transuranic radionuclide sampling both inside the plant and outside (environmental).

SC&A located urinalysis bioassays, air sampling, and environmental sampling for Pu-238 and Pu-239 during the plant's operating period.

- SC&A analyzed these data for indication of potential for worker intakes above normal background exposures and fallout concentrations.

- SC&A examined approximately 100 samples, and results did not indicate the uptake, or the potential for uptake, of plutonium or other transuranic radionuclides arising from plant operations.

SC&A reviewed information on approximately 200 government contracts that could be categorized as research and development (R&D) and searched for any other related documents that could contain information concerning government contracts relevant to potential radiation exposure or radioactive material intakes to workers at Pinellas.

SC&A found that most of the contracts were for non-radiation producing projects: metals, ceramics, testing, analysis, etc. Those that contained any potentially relevant information were investigated further. Nine projects were considered.

SC&A's interim review report had no findings and 13 observations, summarized in the Executive Summary section. NIOSH responded to the SC&A report on October 11, 2023, and presented its response to the WG on November 20, 2023.

- NIOSH concurred with most of the observations; several of the responses commit NIOSH to update the occupational internal dose technical basis document (TBD).
- SC&A reserves further assessment until the revised TBD is available.

The Authorized Petitioner Representative (APR) submitted over 400 documents. Over 60 documents specifically concern plutonium. The Supplemental Review Report addresses several issues related to plutonium raised by the APR and of particular interest to Board members:

- Heather Project
- Bioassays
- Air Monitors
- RTG Models

SC&A concluded that none of the NIOSH documents, including the TBDs, exclude any of the areas where there was a potential for personnel exposure to radiation because it would have been detected by the overall plant's health physics programs, such as internal and external monitoring, area monitoring, and contamination control.

SC&A evaluated the petitioner materials received since SC&A's June 2023 interim review report. Several areas of particular interest to the WG, including potential additional sources of radiation, government R&D contracts, the Heather project, and transuranic radionuclide monitoring.

SC&A made four observations with the common theme that SC&A hasn't identified any additional sources of radiation exposure or intakes that would not be detected by routine

health physics practices at the plant or that could not be bound by the NIOSH dose reconstruction approach.

NIOSH/DCAS Presentation

"NIOSH Response to 'Supplemental SC&A Review of the SEC Petition Evaluation Report for Petition SEC-00256: Pinellas Plant'"

NIOSH found that no additional sources of radiation exposure were identified with no potential for uptake of plutonium or other transuranic radionuclides. There were no contracts indicating the need for additional health physics monitoring. NIOSH noted that the documents provided by the APR provided useful background information but did not contain information to suggest that worker doses cannot be adequately bounded.

NIOSH agrees with the SC&A observations and finds no information that would change NIOSH's determination that dose reconstruction is feasible.

Comments from the WG Chair

The WG Chair discussed the information contained in the contracts between Los Alamos, Mound, and Pinellas. There was a question as to whether there was plutonium at the site that was available for uptake.

SEC Petitioner Comments

Two petitioner representatives gave presentations.

WG Discussion & Path Forward

The group held a brief discussion on materials available for review at the Germantown Department of Energy facility.

Further review of potential exposures from americium and thorium should be conducted.

Future Board Meeting Plans, if Applicable

The WG needs to prepare a report for a presentation at the April full Board meeting. SC&A needs to review the new information that was presented during this WG meeting.

Follow-up Actions

The WG Chair will put together specific questions from today's meeting and send them to NIOSH.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m. EST.