

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Issues Work Group
Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

Summary Proceedings

The SEC Issues Work Group (WG) meeting convened via teleconference/ videoconference at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), with Dr. Henry Anderson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Henry Anderson, Chairman
Josie Beach, Member
Paul Ziemer, Member

Non-Members

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Nancy Adams, NIOSH Contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Rob Buchanan, SC&A
Denise DeGarmo, SEC Petitioner Representative
Joe Fitzgerald, SC&A
Malia Holzberger, Department of Health and Human Services
Amy Mangel, SC&A
Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Charles Nelson, NIOSH
Brant Ulsh, NIOSH

Roll Call/Welcome – Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the SEC Issues WG at 11:00 a.m. EST on February 11, 2026, via teleconference/videoconference. A roll call of WG members confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. None of the WG members or participating staff had conflicts of interest relevant to this meeting. After introductory remarks, Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Dr. Henry Anderson, WG Chair.

NIOSH/DCAS Presentation: “A Discussion of Completeness in Co-Exposure Models,” White Paper (January 26, 2023)

Dr. Brant Ulsh, DCAS, presented a summary of the 2023 White Paper, as well as some response to SC&A’s subsequent review of that white paper. He described some of the history of co-exposure discussions, noted that co-exposure models are only used when data sets are incomplete, discussed the importance of different types of incompleteness, discussed hypothesis testing, and finally discussed the relevance of regulatory compliance and stratification within co-exposure models. He also described points of agreement and disagreement from SC&A’s review of the white paper.

During questions, WG members commented that WG discussions for several covered facilities are waiting for the development of co-exposure models, and that the development time is quite long. Dr. Ulsh replied that, typically, co-exposure models are developed after SEC issues have been discussed, so often site discussions have been going on for some time before co-exposure model development begins. Still, some WG members expressed discomfort with the amount of time required to complete deliberations for sites.

SC&A Presentation: SC&A Comments on NIOSH White Paper “A Discussion of Completeness in Co-Exposure Models”

Bob Barton, SC&A, began by questioning the order of presentations at today’s meeting because DCAS’s previous presentation had included its reactions to the report he is about to present. Still, at the WG’s suggestion he proceeded with his presentation. Mr. Barton’s presentation included DCAS’s conclusions from its 2023 white paper, along with SC&A’s reaction to those conclusions. SC&A generally agreed with DCAS’s conclusions, including the conclusion that there was no way to quantitatively determine completeness. They did object to DCAS’s “starting assumption” that a data set was complete or representative, but Dr. Ulsh’s presentation had explained that completeness was the null hypothesis for hypothesis testing, rather than an actual starting assumption. During questions, WG members asked DCAS what technical documents guided the development of co-exposure models, and what models are currently under development. NIOSH responded that Report 86 and OTIB 78 are the documents. The models under development, listed by priority, are: 1) Hanford internal dose; 2) Santa Susanna Field Laboratory internal dose; 3) West Valley internal dose; 4) BWX Technologies external dose; 5) Y-12 external dose; 6) Rocky Flats internal dose;

7) Grand Junction external dose; and 8) Los Alamos internal dose. DCAS agreed to provide the WG with relative completion status for those models.

WG members generally agreed that the long deliberations times are something the full Board should consider. Many factors affect this, like many sites being discussed at one time, limited DCAS resources, and late introduction of new material either by data capture or provided by claimants or petitioners. WG members also commented that often SEC petitions are granted only for a portion of the petitioned period because the judgment is made that at some point during the petitioned period, available data becomes sufficient to prepare co-exposure models and complete dose reconstructions. However, given the lengthy duration for co-exposure model development, perhaps the Board should reconsider its earlier action and grant the SEC for the entire petitioned period.

In order to keep track of the DCAS and SC&A discussion about the 2023 white paper, both organizations will enter findings and subsequent responses into the Board Review System.

SC&A Presentation: SC&A's Evaluation of ORAUT-OTIB-0075 Revision 01, "Use of Claimant Data Sets for Coworker Modeling"

Bob Barton, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A's review of OTIB-0075, Rev. 1. This OTIB looked at different time periods at three covered facilities and compared the bioassay in claimant files (in DCAS's claimant database) to the full electronic databases of bioassay from those sites. In those three cases a co-exposure model that used only the claimant data would yield very similar results to one that used the entire site database. SC&A had previously reviewed Rev. 0 of this OTIB and had many findings. However, many of those findings concerned stratifying data into co-exposure models for subsets of the worker population, and SC&A has concluded that stratification can only be considered at a site-specific level. Consequently, those findings will be transferred to Savannah River Site WG, where, according to Mr. Barton, they have largely been addressed. SC&A and DCAS will ensure that findings and responses for this OTIB are placed in the Board Review System.

Work Group Discussion and Path Forward

Dr. Anderson will provide a report to the full Board meeting on February 19 about this meeting. After getting information from DCAS about status of co-worker exposure models that are under development, the WG may approach the Board with a description of the timeliness discussion from this meeting. The WG tasked SC&A with compiling information on this topic for presentation to the full Board meeting in April. In addition, the WG will consider presenting information from today's presentation to the full Board so all Board members are familiar with topics under discussion.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.