

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
167th Meeting Minutes

August 26-27, 2026

August 26, 2026, Summary Proceedings

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health meeting convened in person and via videoconference/teleconference at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) at the Marriott Tampa Westshore, Tampa, Florida, with Dr. Henry Anderson presiding.

Attendees

Members

Henry Anderson, Chair
Josie Beach, Member
Frazier Bronson, Member
Bradley Clawson, Member
Arthur Frank, Member
James Lockey, Member
Nicole Martinez, Member
David Pompa, Member
Michael Schmoldt, Member
Kenneth Silver, Member
Faye Vlieger, Member
Paul Ziemer, Member

Non-Members

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Nancy Adams, NIOSH Contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathleen Behling, SC&A
Ron Buchanan, SC&A
John Cardarelli, NIOSH
Madeline Cook, NIOSH
Denise DeGarmo, Pinellas authorized petitioner's representative
Andrew Evaskovich, Los Alamos National Laboratory petitioner

Rose Gogliotti, SC&A
Emily Hanauer, Department of Labor (DOL)
Donna Hand, public
Malia Holzberger, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Deb Jerison, public
Greg Lewis, Department of Energy (DOE)
Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH
Charles Nelson, NIOSH
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
LaVon Rutherford, NIOSH
Scott Siebert, Oak Ridge Associated Universities Team (ORAUT)
Brant Ulsh, NIOSH

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on August 26, 2026, in person and via teleconference/videoconference. A roll call of all Board members confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Board members, federal staff, and contractors disclosed conflicts of interest during roll call. Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Dr. Anderson, chair.

Program Updates

Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH, Emily Hanauer, DOL, and Greg Lewis, DOE, gave updates of each organization's activities under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and responded to Board member questions. The updates included staffing changes, statistics on claim processing and compensation paid, site research activities, and worker outreach activities. The NIOSH report included information about the status of the dose reconstruction subcontract, which is currently held by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities Team (ORAUT). The contract has been extended through February 2027 with the expectation that a new five-year contract will be competitively awarded at that time.

Procedure Reviews Finalization/Document Approvals

Kathleen Behling, SC&A, presented the results of the Subcommittee's review, including the subsequent closure of findings and observations, for the following technical documents:

- OCAS-OTIB-011, rev. 1, "Lung Dose Conversion Factor for Thoron Working Level Month (WLM)"
- ORAUT-RPRT-0084, rev. 00, "Two-Count Filter Method for Measurement of Thoron Progeny in Air"
- ORAUT-RPRT-0097, rev. 00, "Breathing Zone to Area Air Concentration Ratios in Small Work Rooms"
- ORAUT-OTIB-0093, rev. 00, "Conversion of Committed Effective Dose to Annual Organ Dose"
- ORAUT-RPRT-0071, rev. 00, "External Dose Co-Worker Methodology"

After discussing each one, the Board agreed with the Subcommittee's recommendation to close the reviews of these documents. Because of time constraints, a sixth document, DCAS-PER-093, rev. 0 "Texas City Chemicals TBD Rev. 1" was not presented to the Board.

Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition Status Update

Charles Nelson, NIOSH, presented the status of SEC petitions. One petition has been received recently, and NIOSH is reviewing it to see if it qualifies. Petition SEC-00267 for United Nuclear Corporation has recently qualified and is undergoing evaluation. NIOSH

expects to present the evaluation report to the Board at its December meeting. Additionally, NIOSH is preparing an 83.14 petition evaluation report for the West Valley Demonstration Project Atomic Weapons Employer period, 1966-1968. The following petitions are under consideration by the Board:

- Hanford (SEC-00057) 1984-1990 prime contractors
- Savannah River Site (SEC-00103) 1972-2007 prime contractors
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (SEC-00221) 1990-1995 addendum
- Los Alamos National Laboratory (SEC-00109) 1996-2005
- Idaho National Laboratory (SEC-00219) 1949-1970
- Argonne National Laboratory – West (SEC-00224) 1958-1979
- Area IV Santa Susana (SEC-00235) 1991-1993
- DeSoto Avenue Facility (SEC-00246) 1965-1995
- Y-12 Plant (SEC-00250) 1979-1994 addendum
- Pinellas Plant (SEC-00256) 1957-1990

Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Issues Work Group Update

Dr. Anderson, SEC Work Group (WG) chair, summarized the WG's recent discussions about co-exposure models. Topics included, can the time necessary for their preparation be shortened, are we confident we can demonstrate they meet the requirements of IG-006 "Criteria for the Evaluation and Use of Co-Exposure Data Sets," and are we confident in the use of co-exposure models. Rose Gogliotti, SC&A, then presented information about recent WG discussion on the topic of data completeness. In March 2023 NIOSH issued a white paper on the possibility of identifying a quantitative measure for data completeness. They concluded that a quantitative test is not feasible but also reached a number of conclusions about when a data set is complete enough for co-exposure modeling. SC&A reviewed the NIOSH white paper and generally agreed with its conclusions with some caveats. Brant Ulsh, NIOSH, addressed the Board, saying the caveats mainly arose from different understandings of the language NIOSH used, and that SC&A and NIOSH were actually in very close agreement. Both agree that the requirements in IG-006 should be used in addressing completeness questions for co-exposure modeling. As a final item, SC&A's presentation reported that the SEC WG, SC&A, and NIOSH will work to expand the current database of SEC issues. For each SEC petition it will show the justifications for decisions of feasibility or infeasibility and the Board discussions that led to those decisions.

Board Work Session

Dr. Anderson noted that some NIOSH staff have concerns that some information provided by claimants, petitioners, and advocates possibly should be classified, even though it lacks classification marking and was obtained in the public domain. He questioned what office should be responsible for vetting classification of information about DOE facilities—surely should be DOE. NIOSH staff commented, though, that holders of security clearances are instructed that classified information has entered the public domain, and they should take steps to protect it if encountered.

Dr. Anderson commented on the significant change that has occurred in Board membership and that has left some work groups and perhaps subcommittees short staffed, or without chairs. He and Dr. Roberts reached out to Board members to backfill departures.

Dr. Roberts addressed scheduling future meetings. She reminded Board members that a full Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 28 and 29, 2027, and that meeting might be in-person. She then worked with Board members to schedule a Board conference call on June 9, 2027, starting at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time and a full Board meeting August 25 and 26, 2027, which also might be in-person. The Board decided that sites considered for in-person meetings should be near Hanford, near Santa Susana Field Laboratory, and near Oak Ridge in that order of preference.

Pinellas Plant Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition SEC-00256

Madeline Cook, NIOSH, presented information about the Pinellas Plant's mission and history, the history of SEC petition SEC-00256, and the information in NIOSH's evaluation report for petition SEC-00256. NIOSH's evaluation report concludes that doses can be reconstructed for the evaluation period.

Rose Gogliotti, SC&A, presented information from SC&A's review of information provided by the authorized petitioner's representative (APR) for petition SEC-00256 at the January 2026 Pinellas WG meeting and other concerns raised at the August 2026 WG meeting. The SC&A report responds in detail to each issue raised by the APR and finds no new evidence changing the conclusion that dose reconstruction at Pinellas is feasible. SC&A also committed to review any additional information provided by the APR or the Work Group.

Dr. Denise DeGarmo, APR, stated that she had provided a packet of information and a briefing book for Board members that contains more information than can be included in a 30-minute presentation. That information and her presentation today, which is not among the site materials on the meeting website, should be addressed when considering petition SEC-00256. In her presentation she questioned the completeness of the historical information that NIOSH and SC&A used in evaluating the petition and noted the extremely diverse activities that occurred at Pinellas. She felt that better interviews with former workers would reveal that diversity and how things changed over time. She felt that NIOSH had not explained very well the logic behind its conclusion that all doses could be reconstructed, and the information in the evaluation report did not align with historical records. She also questioned the impact of classified information on the SEC evaluation process. She identified the following as scientific questions that require reconciliation:

- Potential for unencapsulated plutonium exposure
- Completeness of bioassay records
- Reliability of bioassay results
- Exposed worker populations
- Contamination history

Public Comment

Members of the public advocated for approval of an SEC for Pinellas, described deaths and illnesses among former Pinellas workers, questioned whether incidents were properly considered, and questioned whether classified information and classified interviews were adequately considered. One commenter also provided a document to the Designated Federal Officer, who will provide it to Board members, NIOSH, and SC&A.

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Ron Buchanan, SC&A
John Cardarelli, NIOSH
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Andrew Evaskovich, LANL petitioner
Joe Fitzgerald, SC&A
Rose Gogliotti, SC&A
Emily Hanauer, DOL

Donna Hand, public
Malia Holzberger, HHS
Deb Jerison, public
Alek Kranbuhl, NIOSH
Greg Lewis, DOE
Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH
Amy Meldrum, SC&A
Charles Nelson, NIOSH
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Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Special Exposure Cohort Petition SEC-00109

Board members Silver, Vlieger, and Ziemer left the meeting for the LANL discussion in accordance with the Conflict of Interest/Appearance of Bias policy.

Joe Fitzgerald, SC&A, presented information on the history of the LANL WG's deliberations and described the SEC classes that have already been added for LANL. The class that has already been added for petition SEC-00109 is for all workers from 1976 to 1995, and it was based on the inability to reconstruct doses for some alpha emitting radionuclides, mixed fission products, and mixed activation products, often called "exotic" radionuclides. For WG discussion, the term "exotic radionuclides" includes everything except Uranium-234, -235, and -238, Plutonium-238 and -239, Americium-241, Cesium-137, and tritium. Recent WG discussions have addressed whether the end date for that class should be extended. In their reviews, SC&A did not identify a change in monitoring for exotic radionuclides in 1996 but did recognize that LANL implemented significant improvements in their internal dose evaluation program that were complete by the end of 2000. LANL implemented those improvements to address the findings from an assessment of their internal dose evaluation program by outside experts. Those findings led LANL to submit a noncompliance report, NC ID 484, to DOE's Office of Enforcement.

John Cardarelli, NIOSH, presented information about the LANL site, the SEC classes that have already been added for LANL, and described the discussion and technical papers that have addressed the remainder of petition SEC-00109. For one technical paper (ORAUT-RPRT-0101), NIOSH collected and analyzed over 106,000 contamination surveys and air sampling results from three technical areas (TA-3, TA-48, and TA-53) where exotic radionuclides were used. NIOSH's position is that those surveys show that LANL monitored workplace conditions so that personnel without bioassay records were unlikely to receive more than 100 millirem (mrem) internal dose. For a second technical paper (ORAUT-RPRT-0103), NIOSH evaluated 24 radiation work permits (RWPs), 8 each from the same three technical areas, to demonstrate how work was monitored and controlled by RWP. NIOSH's position is that the weight of the evidence shows that internal doses from exotic radionuclides are bounded by 100 mrem for unmonitored workers.

Andrew Evaskovich, SEC petitioner, addressed the Board, saying that he had submitted many documents during the 14 years the SEC addendum has been under consideration. Every issue requires a new data capture, and then more effort, extending

the evaluation time. He has typically not commented on timeliness but feels the evaluation period has become excessive. He pointed out that the Division of Compensation Analysis and Support (DCAS) Director has the authority to decide that necessary records will not be available in a timely fashion and therefore consider them not available at all.

LANL WG chair Josie Beach moved that the SEC class for LANL be expanded to include the dates January 1, 1996, to December 31, 2000. After discussion, the Board voted 6-3 to approve the motion, with Anderson, Beach, Clawson, Frank, Pompa, and Schmoldt voting yes and Bronson, Lockey, and Martinez voting no. The Board then approved a letter to the Secretary of HHS, recommending that a class be added for LANL for the period January 1, 1996, to December 31, 2000.

Hanford Special Exposure Cohort Petition SEC-00057

Board members Beach, Schmoldt, and Vlieger left the meeting for the Hanford discussion in accordance with the Conflict of Interest/Appearance of Bias policy.

Alek Kranbuhl, NIOSH, presented the information about Hanford that he had presented to the June 11, 2026, Hanford WG meeting with the intention of informing the full Board of the WG's activities. The presentation included information about the Hanford site and its operations, the SEC classes that have been added at Hanford, and recent Hanford WG activities. The WG is currently considering petition SEC-00226, and whether doses can be reconstructed for employees of the prime contractor for the years 1984 to 1990. Two findings relating to data completeness from SC&A's review of the petition evaluation report have not yet been closed by the WG. NIOSH has conducted extensive data captures and analyses of Hanford data to determine if the monitoring data satisfy the requirements of IG-006, "Criteria for the Evaluation and Use of Co-Exposure Data Sets." Mr. Kranbuhl described those activities and the results. NIOSH believes their efforts demonstrate that the requirements of IG-006 are met and is preparing a response paper to demonstrate that to be considered by the Hanford WG and SC&A.

Board Work Session

Dr. Nicole Martinez, Carborundum WG chair, updated the Board on the recent Carborundum WG meeting. The WG has had several membership changes, including her as chair, and is getting familiar with the work that has been done. SC&A has reviewed the site profile, and NIOSH is preparing responses to findings and observations.

Dr. Roberts, DFO, read the public comments from the Board's April meeting and responses that had been prepared to those comments. She then asked Board members to send suggestions for agenda items for the upcoming December meeting, noting that the agenda would include updates from NIOSH, DOL, and DOE and completed procedures reviews from the Subcommittee for Procedures Reviews.

Dr. Anderson, Board chair, read congratulatory tribute letters to Dr. Tim Taulbee, who retired as the Division of Compensation Analysis and Support's (DCAS's) Associate

Director for Science last year, and to LaVon Rutherford, who is retiring as Deputy Director of DCAS at the end of this month.

Decisions

The Board closed the reviews of the five technical documents listed under “Procedure Reviews Finalization/Document Approvals.”

The Board voted to recommend to the Secretary of HHS that an SEC class be added for all Los Alamos National Laboratory workers from January 1, 1996, to December 31, 2000.

Action Items

No action items were identified.

Future Meeting Plans

The next Board meetings are a teleconference on October 8, 2026, and a full Board meeting tentatively scheduled for December 2 and 3, 2026.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).