

# Update on SEC-0068 Pantex Plant

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# Petition Status

- The petitioned class (after consult call with NIOSH) was 'all workers who worked in all facilities at Pantex from 1/1/51 to 12/31/91'
- NIOSH initial decision that petition did not qualify was reversed by Administrative Review
- The evaluated class was 'all employees who worked in any facility/location at Pantex from 1/1/51 to 12/31/91'

## Petition Status—cont.

- At its November 2011 meeting the Board recommended adding a class for all workers from 1/1/58 to 12/31/83 based on infeasibility of reconstructing internal doses from uranium, in accordance with recommendation from the Pantex Work Group
- The NIOSH ER had proposed that internal doses from uranium could be bounded by the doses received during dismantlement of the W28 weapon system, considered the “dirtiest”

## Petition Status—cont.

- W28 dismantlement began in 1984; dismantlement activities were suspended in 1989
- Some months after the suspension of dismantlement activities uranium bioassay samples were collected from workers who had worked on W28 dismantlement
- NIOSH ER proposed that data set could be used to calculate bounding internal doses to uranium

## Petition Status—cont.

- Prior to the November 2012 Board meeting the Pantex Work Group concluded that work conditions and controls were not sufficiently static at Pantex from 1958 through the late 1980s to permit doses from W28 dismantlement to be instructive about doses from earlier operations, so they recommended the addition of the 1958-1983 class
- The Work Group took no position on the 1984-1989, 1990-1991, or 1951-1957 periods

# Petition Status—cont.

- **1951 to 1957**
  - Early Pantex operations mainly involved high explosives work. 1958 was chosen as start date for recommended class because radioactive components were clearly being handled at Pantex at that time. However, earlier work may have involved some radioactive materials, so some additional investigation is required for this period.
- **1984-1989**
  - For months NIOSH has searched for records that would allow more precise interpretation of the W28 bioassay data. On Sep 5, 2012, Pantex point of contact emailed that the records NIOSH was seeking might have been located.

# Petition Status—cont.

- **1990-1991**
  - **NIOSH has access to roughly 1000 uranium bioassay samples from this period, each analyzed isotopically for U-234, U-235, U-236, and U-238. While the analysis of these data are not complete, NIOSH contends that they will prove sufficient to estimate internal doses due to uranium during this period.**