



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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October 11, 2006

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The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated SEC Petition-00060 concerning workers at the S-50 Oak Ridge Thermal Diffusion Plant under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 and 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) be accorded to all employees of the DOE predecessor agencies, and their contractors or subcontractors, who were monitored or should have been monitored while working at the S-50 Oak Ridge Thermal Diffusion Plant for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days during the period from July 9, 1944 through December 31, 1951, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the SEC.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- People working in S-50 Oak Ridge Thermal Diffusion Plant were employed in a wartime uranium enrichment facility from July 9, 1944 to September 9, 1945 and in feasibility studies for the Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft project from May 1, 1946 through December 31, 1951. NIOSH found that it lacked access to internal and external personnel dosimetry data and other workplace monitoring data necessary to reconstruct internal and external exposures to uranium compounds and other radioactive materials that may have been present at the facility during the time period in question and thus was unable to estimate, with sufficient accuracy, radiation doses from internal and external exposures for these workers. The Board concurs with this determination.

- NIOSH determined that health was endangered for the workers exposed to radiation in S-50 Oak Ridge Thermal Diffusion Plant during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- The NIOSH review of the data was found that it was sufficient to support accurate individual dose reconstruction for occupational medical doses for workers at the S-50 Oak Ridge Thermal Diffusion Plant during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada where this special exposure cohort was discussed. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Ziemer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chairman

Enc.