



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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August 9, 2007

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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-00075 concerning workers at the Ames Laboratory in Iowa under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all Sheet metal workers, physical plant maintenance and associated support staff (includes all maintenance shop personnel of Ames Laboratory), and supervisory staff who were monitored, or should have been monitored for potential internal radiation exposures associated with the maintenance and renovation activities of the thorium production areas in Wilhelm Hall (a.k.a. the Metallurgy Building or "Old" Metallurgy Building) at the Ames Laboratory, for the time period from January 1, 1955 through December 31, 1970 and who were employed for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days, either solely under this employment or in combination with work days within the parameters (excluding aggregate work day parameters) established for other classes of employees included in the SEC. The Board notes that although NIOSH found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, NIOSH believes that they are able to reconstruct components of the internal dose (other than thorium) and all external doses.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

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- People working at the Ames Laboratory during this time period worked on maintenance and renovation activities at the Thorium production areas at the Ames Laboratory.
- The NIOSH review of the available monitoring data as well as the available source term and other information found that they lacked adequate information necessary to conduct accurate individual internal dose reconstructions for thorium and its progeny during the time period in question.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these Ames Laboratory workers. The Board concurs with this determination.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul L. Ziemer".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chairman

Enc.