



## 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-00057-1 concerning workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation 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 employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), its predecessor agencies, and DOE contractors and subcontractors who were monitored, or should have been monitored, for internal radiological exposures while working at the Hanford Engineer Works in: the 300 Area fuel fabrication and research facilities from October 1, 1943 through August 31, 1946; the 200 Area plutonium separation facilities from November 1, 1944 through August 31, 1946; or the 100 B, D, and F reactor areas from September 1, 1944 through August 31, 1946; and who were employed for at least 250 aggregated work days either solely under their employment or in combination with work days within the parameters established for other SEC classes (excluding aggregate work day requirements). 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 plutonium and fission products), and all external doses with the possible exception of neutron dose which is still being evaluated.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

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- People working at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation during this time period worked in the early years of nuclear weapons research and production.
- 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 plutonium and fission products during the time period in question.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these Hanford Nuclear Reservation workers during the time period in question. 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 black ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Ziemer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.  
Chairman

Enc.