



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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May 22, 2026

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The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 00103 concerning workers at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, South Carolina under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13.

The Board respectfully recommends that SEC status be accorded to:

“All construction trade employees of Department of Energy subcontractors who worked at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina, from January 1, 1991, through December 31, 1993, for a number of workdays aggregating at least 250 workdays, occurring either solely under this employment, or in combination with workdays within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees included in the Special Exposure Cohort. This class specifically does not include employees of prime contractors of Westinghouse Savannah River Company during this time period.”

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- Individuals working at the SRS during the time period in question worked on nuclear weapons production and related operations.
- Subcontractor construction trades workers conducted a broad range of work activities supporting research, fuel handling, transuranic material processing and separation, decontamination and decommissioning, and reactor outages. They may have worked in high-contamination and high-airborne radioactivity areas and may have been utilized for short-term high-exposure work tasks.

- Subcontractor construction trades workers may have been “transient” and not have worked for long periods at SRS and may have been intermittently tasked with nonroutine radiological jobs under work permits and thus were not likely enrolled in the routine (including termination) bioassay monitoring program.
- The Board finds there to be insufficient information, including a lack of job-specific radio-bioassay monitoring data for subcontractor construction trades workers, and assurance of workplace monitoring and source term data, to enable NIOSH to estimate with sufficient accuracy all potential internal doses from radionuclides associated with fuel handling, reactor operations, fuel reprocessing, and/or research activities, to which the proposed class may have been exposed during the time period in question.
- The Board finds there to be insufficient information, including a lack of job-specific radio-bioassay monitoring data for subcontractor construction trades workers, and assurance of workplace monitoring and source term data, to enable NIOSH to estimate with sufficient accuracy all potential internal doses from radionuclides associated with fuel handling, reactor operations, fuel reprocessing, and/or research activities, to which the proposed class may have been exposed during the time period in question.
- The Board also finds there to be sufficient information to reconstruct occupational external dose, as well as medical dose, for SRS subcontractor construction trades workers.
- The Board determined that health may have been endangered for subcontractor construction trades workers exposed to radiation at the SRS during the time period in question.

Based on these considerations and the discussions held at the Board meeting on April 29, 2026, the Board recommends that this class be added to the SEC.

Enclosed are documents from the Board meetings where this SEC class was discussed. The documents include copies of the petition, the Board’s deliberation, NIOSH’s review thereof, and related materials. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

[Signature on File]

Henry A. Anderson III, M.D., Chair
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health

Enclosures