



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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December 18, 2008

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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, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 0134 concerning workers at Vitro Manufacturing, Canonsburg, PA, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all AWE employees who worked at the Vitro Manufacturing facility in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, from August 13, 1942 through December 31, 1957, for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days, occurring either solely under this employment or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the Special Exposure Cohort.

The Board notes that although the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, they believe that they are able to reconstruct portions of the external and internal radiation doses and the occupational medical dose.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- The Vitro Manufacturing facility was involved in early uranium processing work for the manufacture of atomic weapons.
- NIOSH was unable to locate sufficient monitoring data or information on radiological operations at this facility in order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstructions for the potential internal exposures to uranium, and uranium progeny to which these workers may have been subjected. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation at this facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our December 17, 2008 Board meeting, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Augusta, Georgia, where this Special Exposure Cohort class was discussed. The documentation includes transcripts of the deliberations, copies of the petition, and the NIOSH review thereof, and related documents distributed by NIOSH. 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.
Chair

Enclosure