1.0 Description

On 3/26/2010, ORAUT-TKBS-0058, the Site Profile for Battelle Memorial Institute King Avenue and West Jefferson Sites (BMI) was issued. A class of Kings Avenue employees were designated as members of the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) on 3/6/2013 with an additional class designated on 2/18/2016. As a result of the SEC review, on 6/27/2016 revision 1 of ORAUT-TKBS-0058 was issued. This PER is being prepared to consider the effect of the revision to ORAUT-TKBS-0058 on previously completed claims.

2.0 Issue Evaluation

Revision 1 of the site profile included the following changes:

- Environmental internal and external doses were included in this revision
- Recycled uranium components were added
- Readers are now directed to ORAUT-OTIB-0076 for assessing thorium intakes
- Multiplication factors were included to assess beta dose expressed in arbitrary units (a.u.) in dose records.
These changes have a potential to affect any previously completed claim so all previously claims from BMI must be considered. Because there is potential that some claims may not have been affected by any of these changes, part of the evaluation will include a case-by-case review to determine if any of the changes affect a particular claim.

3.0 Plan for Resolving Corrective Action

To establish the population of claims potentially affected, a search of the NOCTS database was conducted for those claims with BMI employment (both the Kings Avenue and West Jefferson sites). This search discovered a total of 91 claims. Twenty seven of these claims resulted in a probability of causation (POC) greater than 50% and were removed from further evaluation. An additional 20 claims were either completed using revision 1 of the site profile, were awaiting a dose reconstruction at NIOSH at the time of the search (and would then be completed using revision 1) or they were pulled from dose reconstruction (meaning DOL no longer needed a dose reconstruction to determine whether the claim was compensable). These 20 claims were also removed from further evaluation leaving 44 claims to evaluate.

An additional search for the word “Battelle” was conducted on dose reconstruction reports. This search produced 3126 claims. Seventy two of these were duplicates of the claims described above. Additionally, 3050 claims contained the word Battelle but had no visits or other connection to the BMI. Most of these were the result of referencing Battelle-TBD-6000 or similar documents. The remaining 4 claims from the second search were added to the initial search producing a population of 48 claims. Lastly, these claims were reviewed to determine if they qualified for inclusion in the BMI or other SEC. Twelve of these claims were members of an SEC and were removed from further evaluation. This left 36 claims to be evaluated further.

The 36 claims were evaluated to determine if any of the changes to the site profile affected the calculated dose. In a case-by-case review, it was determined that all but 5 of the claims were unaffected by the changes made to the site profile. For those 5, the dose was recalculated using revision 1 of the site profile as well as the current revision of any other applicable documents. Four of the claim resulted in a POC less than 45%. The remaining claim resulted in a POC between 45 and 50%. For this claim, IREP was run 30 times at 10,000 iterations per NIOSH procedures. The resulting POC was less than 50%.

NIOSH will provide the Department of Labor with the list of all the claims evaluated under this PER. Since none of the re-evaluated doses resulted in a POC greater than 50%, NIOSH will not request the return of any claims.