1.0 Description

Revision 3 of the Technical Basis Document (TBD) for the Clarksville and Medina Modification Centers (ORAUT-TKBS-0039) was issued on 1/4/2017. Prior to that, dose reconstructions utilized methods found in earlier revisions of the TBD with the first (revision 0) being issued on 11/14/2006. Prior to that, dose reconstructions utilized complex wide methods or other documents.

The effect of issuing revision 3 of the TBD on all previously completed claims is the subject of this PER.

2.0 Issue Evaluation

Increases in dose due to revision 3 of the TBD include the following issues.

Dose to the liver, gallbladder, spleen, pancreas, bone surfaces, stomach and remainder organs all increased for lumbar spine x-ray examinations due to a change in the surrogate organ selected for that view. Also, dose may increase for some workers of the lower torso due to establishing a correction factor for workers who held weapon pits in their
laps in the sitting position. Lastly, unmonitored external shallow dose increase for all years due to the incorporation of ORAUT-OTIB-0086 into this TBD.

Earlier revisions to the TBD primarily resulted in decreases (or no change) to doses estimated. The largest change being removal of some exposures due to the inclusion of Clarksville in the Special Exposure Cohort. Prior to revision 0 of the TBD, complex-wide methods were primarily used.

With of variety of methods used in the past, no populations of claims were excluded from evaluation based on them being unaffected by the latest changes. All claims associated with the Clarksville or Medina sites were considered.

3.0 Plan for Resolving Corrective Action

A search of the NIOSH Claims Tracking System (NOCTS) database was combined with a text search of the dose reconstruction reports of previously completed claims. The NOCTS search queried employment at either site while the text search queried the keywords “Clarksville” or “Medina”. The combined search resulted in a total of 172 claims.

The population of claims was reduced by first removing 51 claims for which the dose reconstruction had resulted in a probability of causation of greater than 50%. Next, 17 claims were removed because they had been “pulled” from dose reconstruction primarily due to inclusion in the special exposure cohort. An additional 32 claims were removed because their information indicated they would qualify for compensation under the special exposure cohort and no estimate for medical benefits would be necessary for other cancers. Another 11 claims were removed for which the keyword search flagged a word that was not actually associated with the site or the claim was duplicated between different searches. Lastly, 11 claims were removed that are being evaluated under a PER for the Pantex site. The evaluation under that PER will consider all changes to the dose reconstruction methods, not just changes to the Pantex site.

Dose for the remaining 50 claims was recalculated using revision 3 of the TBD as well as all other applicable procedures. All 50 claims resulted in a new probability of causation below 45%.

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