



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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May 23, 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-00051 concerning workers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 and 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all employees of the DOE, its predecessor agencies, or DOE contractors or subcontractors who were monitored or should have been monitored for radiological exposures while working in operational Technical Areas with a history of radioactive material use at the Los Alamos National Laboratory for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days during the period from March 15, 1943 through December 31, 1975, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the SEC. 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 including tritium (1950-1975), polonium (1944-1956), plutonium (1944-1975), and uranium (1943-1975) and of the external dose including gamma (1946-1975), beta (1949-1975), neutron (1946-1975) and occupational medical X-ray (1943-1975), and therefore individuals with non-presumptive cancers may be considered for partial dose reconstructions.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- People working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory during this time period worked in nuclear weapons development and testing and other technical and scientific research involving exposures to many different radionuclides.

- The NIOSH review of the available monitoring data as well as the available source term information found that they lacked adequate information necessary to conduct adequate individual dose reconstructions for a number of radionuclides during a significant percentage of the time period in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion that individual dose reconstructions are not feasible for people working in these technical areas from March 15, 1943 through December 31, 1975.
- The NIOSH review of the available monitoring data as well as the available source term information found that they lacked adequate information necessary to conduct adequate individual dose reconstructions for a number of radionuclides during a significant percentage of the time period in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion that individual dose reconstructions are not feasible for people working in these technical areas from March 15, 1943 through December 31, 1975.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Denver, Colorado 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Paul L. Ziemer".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chairman

Enc.