



NIOSH Dose Reconstruction Project Introductory Meeting on Development of Site Profile For Argonne National Laboratory-East

Meeting Date:

June 2, 2005, 3:45 p.m.

Meeting with:

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), Local Lodge 742 (Machinists)

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Joe Pluger	IAMAW District 55	Tadeusz Kapusta	IAM Lodge 742
W. F. Prucnal	IAM Lodge 742	Frank Smagacz	IAM Lodge 742
Bruce Hoster	IAM Lodge 742	John Wozniak	IAM Lodge 742
William Brown	IAM Lodge 742	Mike Polowinczak	IAM Lodge 742
Kristi Wood	IAM Lodge 742		

NIOSH and ORAU Team Representatives:

William Murray – Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)

Mark Lewis – Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International, Inc. (ATL)

Norman Rohrig – Intrepid Technologies

Bob Meyer – M F G Environmental

Mary Elliott – ATL

Proceedings:

Mark Lewis began the meeting at approximately 3:45 p.m. by asking everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Lewis gave a brief introduction of the program, describing the value of having workers provide information for the Site Profile as “taking a snapshot of the past,” recalling information that may be helpful to make the document a better instrument for reconstructing radiation doses. He explained that he had worked for 29 years at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant and was a member of the PACE union there for many years -- now United Steelworkers of America. He said that he is now employed by ATL International, a subcontractor to Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), to conduct worker outreach with labor unions that have members associated with the nuclear weapons complex.

Mr. Lewis stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the types of information that would be important in developing the Argonne National Laboratory-East Site Profile. He said that the site profile is a “living document,” which means that it can be changed if new information becomes available.



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Mr. Lewis introduced Norman Rohrig and Bob Meyer as members of the site profile team for Argonne National Laboratory East. He said that Mary Elliott was present to take notes to ensure accuracy of the minutes. He then introduced Bill Murray for the presentation of the program.

Mr. Murray began his presentation by describing three phases in which it is important to involve the workers in the development of the site profile:

1. At the beginning of the Site Profile development process, when the ORAU team meets with workers to get their input.
2. A rollout meeting after the Site Profile is completed.
3. A continuing dialogue with the workers and union representatives, which allows for additional input that can lead to revisions in the document.

Mr. Murray explained the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) was enacted by Congress to compensate workers who became ill as a result of occupational exposure to radiation or toxic chemicals in the nuclear weapons industry. He said that the team was there pursuant to Part B of EEOICPA, which deals with claims for radiation exposure as well as beryllium exposure and silicosis. He described the roles of the Department of Labor (DOL) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Office of Compensation Analysis and Support (OCAS) in implementing the program. He explained that due to the large number of claims, NIOSH had contracted with Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) to perform dose reconstructions for claims filed under Subtitle B of the Act. Government and contractor records are used in writing the Site Profile, and worker input is important to give the workers' perspective and ensure that the document is not biased in favor of the employer or the government. He explained that the authors of the Site Profile are not affiliated with the site so there will be no conflict of interest.

Mr. Murray described the site profile as an historical document compiled from information from many sources. This information is gathered from documents provided by the government and the contractor, but input from the employees of the site ensures historical accuracy because they are the true site experts. He then discussed the main components of a site profile: site processes and activities, external dose, internal dose, environmental dose, and medical dose. He described how the dose reconstructions are done using this information -- the more information available, the more accurate the dose reconstruction. This is why it is so important to get input from the workers' standpoint -- they know what happened at the site.

Mr. Murray said that if a person has classified information that could be used in the Site Profile, secure interviews can be arranged.

Mr. Murray added that all additional sources of information should be explored. Employees and retirees may have information that wasn't included in the government and company records; or they may be able to identify other sources of information. If any such information is available, it should be sent directly to NIOSH by mail or e-mail.



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Discussion Session – Q/A

Question:

Can survivors file?

Bill Murray:

Yes, they can. If there is a surviving spouse, he or she may file for the benefits. If there is no surviving spouse, then any surviving children may file the claim.

Question:

Does the program cover future illness?

Bill Murray:

Yes, it does. If a current or former worker gets cancer next year or ten years from now, the worker/survivor can file a claim.

Question:

What if a claimant worked at more than one site?

Bill Murray:

If a worker was employed at more than one Department of Energy/Atomic Weapons Employer site, the dose records are obtained from all of the sites. The dose from all sites is used to reconstruct the worker's dose.

Mark Lewis:

The DOL Resource Center responsible for Argonne East is located in Paducah, Kentucky. Their office will assist union members if they need help filing claims.

Mr. Murray concluded the presentation at approximately 4:15 p.m. by thanking the union membership for allowing the team to make its presentation.