



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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January 13, 2007

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The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
Congress of the United States
28th District, New York
2489 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2006, concerning actions of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health relating to the Linde Ceramics facility in Tonawanda, N.Y. I am writing in response to your request for an update on the status of the review by the Board's contractor, SC&A.

To date, SC&A has completed reviews of 15 site profiles, one of which is Linde Ceramics. Of these 15 reviews, the comment resolution process by the Board has been completed for two, is in process for five others, and has not yet started for the remaining eight. Linde Ceramics is one of those eight. Seven of the eight reviews, including Linde, have come to use since July, 2006. The inability of the Board to get underway on the comment resolution process on this group of eight has been largely due to our focus on the relatively large number of SEC petitions that have been submitted over the past year.

That having been said, the Board recognizes that further delay is not acceptable. At our January 11, 2007, conference call, the Board agreed to proceed with the comment resolution process for Linde Ceramics and has requested that NIOSH provide its responses to the SC&A findings as soon as feasible. The Board further agreed to appoint Work Group for the Linde Ceramics review at the next Board meeting in February, 2007. We will keep your office informed of the activities and meetings of the Work Group and provide you with all documents developed pertaining to this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chairman

Cc: Larry Elliott, NIOSH-OCAS
John Mauro, SC&A