

Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
141th Meeting

Wednesday, August 18, and Thursday August 19, 2021

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Summary Proceedings

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health meeting convened via teleconference at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Dr. Henry Anderson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Henry Anderson, Chair
Josie Beach, Member
Bradley P. Clawson, Member
R. William Field, Member
David Kotelchuck, Member
Genevieve S. Roessler, Member
Phillip Schofield, Member
Loretta R. Valerio, Member
Paul L. Ziemer, Member

Non-Members, Registered and/or Public Comment Participants:

Roberts, Rashaun, Designated Federal Official
Adams, Nancy, Niosh Contractor
Barton, Bob, SC&A
Behling, Kathy, SC&A
Blaze, D'Lanie
Buchanan, Ron, SC&A
Calhoun, Grady, DCAS
Cardarelli, John, DCAS
Chalmers, Nancy, ORAU Team
Cook, Maddie, DCAS
Crawford, Chris, DOL
DeGarmo, Denise
Fitzgerald, Joe, SC&A
Gheen, Angelica, DCAS
Gogliotti, Rose, SC&A
Guido, Joe, ORAU Team

Hand, Donna
Hughes, Lara, DCAS
Kinman, Josh, DCAS
Kranbuhl, Alek, DCAS
Lewis, Greg, DOE
McCloskey, Pat, ORAU Team
Naylor, Jenny, HHS OGC
Nelson, Chuck, DCAS
Reeves, Kandyce, DCAS
Rutherford, LaVon, DCAS
Sheanshang, Daniel, ORAU Team
Taulbee, Tim, DCAS
Whitten, Dianne

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health at 1:00 pm EDT on August 18, 2021 via teleconference. A roll call of all ABRWH members confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Dr. Roberts noted that Board members did not have any conflicts of interest for the sites on today's agenda. She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Anderson, ABRWH Chair. Dr. Anderson welcomed attendees and announced that NIOSH was in the process of recruiting additional ABRWH members.

Program Updates: NIOSH, DOL, and DOE

Grady Calhoun (NIOSH), Chris Crawford (DOL), and Greg Lewis (DOE) gave updates of each organization's activities for the EEOICPA Program and responded to questions from Board Members. Mr. Calhoun's presentation gave an update on the NIOSH Cybersecurity IT Modernization, which has disrupted access to many of the files used in the program. DCAS is working on processes to provide the Board and its contractor access to needed files.

Procedures Review Finalization/Document Approvals – Josie Beach, Chair, Subcommittee for Procedure Review

Ms. Beach introduced the topic, reporting that the Subcommittee has not been able to meet since the last Board meeting. However, SC&A has been able to move forward on one activity that the Subcommittee proposed at the last Board meeting: the review of Board meeting transcripts where the Subcommittee reported on technical documents for which it had completed reviews. In these cases, the Board did not take action to approve the completion of the document reviews.

Kathy Behling, SC&A, presented the Subcommittee's findings and resolutions for eight technical documents that had been presented to the Board previously, but not closed by the Board. The Board discussed each and decided whether to close the reviews, as recommended by the Subcommittee. The documents are:

- ORAUT-OTIB-0070, rev 00, "Dose Reconstruction during Residual Radioactivity Periods at Atomic Weapons Employer Sites"
- OCAS-IG-001, rev 01, 02, and 03, "External Dose Reconstruction Implementation Guideline"
- OCAS-OTIB-0010, rev 02, "Best Estimate External Dose Reconstruction for Glovebox Workers"
- ORAUT-OTIB-0023, rev 00, "Assignment of Missed Neutron Doses Based on Dosimeter Records"
- ORAUT-OTIB-0010, rev 00, "A Standard Complex-Wide Correction Factor for Overestimating External Doses Measured with Film Badge Dosimeters"
- OCAS-PER-012, rev 00, "Evaluation of Highly Insoluble Plutonium Compounds"
- NIOSH-OVER-0009, "Skin Exposure"

- ORAUT-OTIB-0017, rev 01, “Interpretation of Dosimetry Data for Assignment of Shallow Dose”

The Board agreed to close all findings associated with ORAUT-OTIB-0070, OCAS-IG-001, ORAUT-OTIB-0023, ORAUT-OTIB-0019, and OCAS-PER-012, and agreed to close all findings on OCAS-OTIB-0010 except for findings numbered 5, 6, and 8. The Subcommittee and Board will revisit those findings after an anticipated revision to the document that incorporates dose conversion factors from ICRP-116 is issued. The Board did not close findings from OVER-0009 and ORAUT-OTIB-0017. The Subcommittee and Board will revisit those after anticipated revisions are issued.

The Subcommittee expects to make a similar presentation on ORAUT-OTIB-0052, OCAS-PER-0014, and ORAUT-OTIB-0020 at the Board’s December meeting.

Board Work Session

Dr. Anderson opened the session by asking Bob Barton, SC&A, to provide a presentation on the use of NOCTS claimant radiation exposure data as a substitute for the complete site radiation exposure database. The Board had asked SC&A to perform this task at a prior meeting so that the Board could specifically evaluate this topic. Mr. Barton presented information from transcripts of Board, Subcommittee, and Work Group meetings where documents relevant to co-exposure models were discussed. Following extensive Board discussion, members agreed to continue considering the question. Members certainly expect to revisit it as DCAS prepares new co-exposure models. Subcommittee and Work Group chairs reported recent progress and planned activities.

Public Comment

Members of the public provided comments related to the Pinellas Plant, and Dr. Roberts then read into the record comments from an advocate that argued against the use of NOCTS data for co-exposure models. Following public comment, Dr. Anderson adjourned for the day at 5:50 pm EDT.

Thursday, August 19, 2021

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Adams, Nancy, NIOSH Contractor
Barrie, Terrie, ANWAG
Barton, Bob, SC&A
Buchanan, Ron, SC&A
Calhoun, Grady, DCAS
Cardarelli, John, DCAS
Carroll, Stephanie, Atomic Worker Advocacy, Inc.
Chalmers, Nancy, ORAU Team
Cook, Maddie, DCAS
Fitzgerald, Joe, SC&A
Gheen, Angelica, DCAS
Gogliotti, Rose, SC&A
Guido, Joe, ORAU Team
Hicks, Steve
Hughes, Lara, DCAS
Lewis, Greg, DOE
McCloskey, Pat, ORAU Team
Mercer, Jack
Naylor, Jenny, HHS OGC
Nelson, Chuck, DCAS
Quinn, Trish, CPWR
Rutherford, LaVon, DCAS
Sharfi, Mutty, ORAU Team
Sheanshang, Daniel, ORAU Team
Taulbee, Tim, DCAS

Roll Call/Welcome – Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health at 1:00 pm EST on August 19, 2021 via teleconference. Dr. Roberts noted that Dr. Ziemer had a conflict of interest with respect to Oak Ridge National Lab (X-10), so he will disconnect from the call for that agenda item. A roll call of all ABRWH members confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

SEC Petition Status Update & SEC Qualification Process – Chuck Nelson, DCAS

Mr. Nelson reported that there were no SEC petitions in the qualification process. DCAS is working on the evaluation report for a petition for the Pinellas plant and an addendum to its evaluation report for a petition for Lawrence Livermore National Lab. Additionally, DCAS and SC&A are continuing work on SEC petitions from Hanford, Los Alamos National Lab, Sandia National Lab, Idaho National Lab, Argonne National Lab-West, Area IV Santa Susanna, Metals & Controls, DeSoto Avenue Facility, and Reduction Pilot Plant and is still evaluating records from West Valley Demonstration Project to see if an 83.14 petition is warranted for the years 1966-1968. Later in today's agenda Dr. Lara Hughes, DCAS, will present the evaluation report addendum for the Y-12 Plant. NIOSH is still awaiting action from the Secretary, HHS, on Board's letter recommending the addition of an SEC class at the Savannah River Site.

Y-12 Plant SEC Petition 250 Addendum Update (Oak Ridge, Tennessee; 1987-1994) – Dr. Lara Hughes, DCAS

Dr. Field, Y-12 Work Group chair introduced the topic, providing background on Work Group activities, and noting that the Work Group last met in September 2020. At that meeting DCAS provided a progress report on remaining issues, and the Work Group tasked DCAS to respond to questions from the Y-12 SEC petitioner. DCAS provided the Work Group responses to those questions in July.

Dr. Lara Hughes presented the findings from DCAS's evaluation report addendum. Several SEC classes have been added for Y-12 from earlier petitions with the end result that all Y-12 workers from 1943-1976 are included in the class. The original evaluation report Petition 250 recommended adding a class for January 1977 through July 1979, but not adding a class for August 1979 through December 1986. The addendum being presented today does not recommend a class for January 1987 through December 1994.

Dr. Hughes described the research DCAS had completed in order to arrive at this conclusion and presented site description and site history information for Y-12. Since the ability to reconstruct doses from thorium exposure is an important question for the Y-12 SEC petitions, she also described Y-12's thorium work activities and thorium monitoring practices. After Board discussion SC&A was tasked to review the evaluation report addendum. Bob Barton, SC&A, cautioned that the review would take longer than usual because NIOSH's Cybersecurity IT Modernization had interrupted access to the Site Research Database. While DCAS can make specific documents, such as the references cited in the addendum, available, SC&A normally does not restrict its review of a technical document to a review of that document's references. The SEC petitioner provided comments, asking for broader availability of the historical documents that support the technical documents prepared in this program, and urging investigation of certain issues.

Oak Ridge National Lab (X-10) Update – Dr. Gen Roessler, Chair, Oak Ridge National Lab Work Group

Dr. Roessler reported that a central issue for Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) is the production of exotic radionuclides by the ORNL Isotope Division. Some of that Division's work utilized the Cyclotron and Calutron devices, which are located at the Y-12 plant. Thus, the evaluations of these two sites are somewhat intertwined. Dr. Roessler reported on the open and closed findings from SC&A's review of

ORAUT-RPRT-0090, "Assessing Doses from Isotope Production at ORNL from 1955-1988," as well as the recognized need to revise the ORNL co-exposure models to comply with the guidance in OCAS-IG-006. DCAS reported that it hopes to publish a revision to ORAUT-RPRT-0090 by the end of the year that should address the open findings. However, it could not predict completion of revised co-exposure models because the Cybersecurity IT Modernization had limited the ability to perform the needed work.

Meeting Adjourned

Before the meeting adjourned, Dr. Kotelchuck, chair of the Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews, asked if the necessary files would be made available to Subcommittee members and SC&A in order to enable a Subcommittee meeting in September. NIOSH's Cybersecurity IT Modernization project had disrupted normal access to those files. Grady Calhoun, DCAS, reported that he was working on a way to make the necessary files available, and felt that a meeting in September would be possible.

Dr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:52 pm.