

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
Meeting 153
Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Summary Proceedings

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health meeting convened at 8:15 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Dr. Henry A. Anderson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Henry Anderson, Chair
Josie Beach, Member
Victoria Cassano, Member (via Zoom)
Bradley Clawson, Member
Arthur Frank, (via Zoom)
David Kotelchuck, Member (via Zoom)
James Lockey, Member
Nicole Martinez, Member (via Zoom)
David Pompa, Member
Gen Roessler, Member (via Zoom)
Paul L. Ziemer, Member
Loretta Valerio, Member (via Zoom)

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

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Official
Nancy Adams, NIOSH contractor
Zaida Burgos, NIOSH contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Finn Black
Ron Buchanan
Grady Calhoun, DCAS
John Cardarelli, DCAS
Nancy Chalmers, ORAU Team
Frank "Chris" Crawford, DOL
Denise DeGarmo

Dennis Elliott, Co-petitioner
Michael Elliott, Co-petitioner
Joe Fitzgerald, SC&A
Joe Guido, ORAU Team
Donna Hand
Greg Lewis, DOE
Mark Lewis, Subcontractor DCAS
Ashton Habighurst, HHS
Mangel, Amy, SC&A
Pat McCloskey, ORAU
Chuck Nelson, DCAS
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Marybeth Potter
Susan Powell, R.N.
Michael Rafky, HHS
LaVon Rutherford, DCAS
Mutty Sharfi
Scott Siebert, ORAU
Tim Taulbee, DCAS
Brant Ulsh, NIOSH
Diane Whitten
Michael Rafky, HHS

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health at 8:15 am EST on August 16, 2023, at the Double Tree Inn at Augusta, Georgia. A roll call of all ABRWH members confirmed that a quorum was present. Board members and staff announced conflicts of interest during roll call. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Dr. Anderson, Board Chair, who moved on to the first agenda item.

Program Updates: NIOSH, DOL, DOE

Grady Calhoun (NIOSH), Frank Crawford (DOL) and Gina Griego-Kelleher (DOE) gave updates of each organization's activities for the EEOICPA Program and responded to questions from Board Members. Initially, technical difficulties prevented Frank Crawford from describing his presentation, but those were resolved, and he presented it after the next agenda item.

Interactive RadioEpidemiological Program (IREP) Update – Dr. Tim Taulbee, DCAS

Dr. Taulbee reported on work DCAS has done evaluating how different software packages calculate percentiles, and the variability of the 99th percentile when using the number of iterations IREP currently uses. Currently IREP has a slight negative bias in 99th percentiles of Probability of Causation (POC), which could affect claim outcomes if they are close to the 50% POC decision point. Consequently, DCAS is adopting a new version of IREP which allows a larger number of iterations because that will narrow the range of calculated 99th percentiles. Previously completed claims with POCs in the range of 45% to 50% will be re-evaluated via a Program Evaluation Report, in order to apply the new version of IREP to them. Dr. Taulbee responded to questions from Board members.

Procedures Review Finalization/Document Approvals – Ms. Kathy Behling, SC&A

After introductory remarks by Ms. Beach, Subcommittee Chair, Ms. Kathy Behling, SC&A presented the Subcommittee's completed review of five documents. Those documents are:

- OCAS TIB-009, rev. 0, "Estimation of Ingestion Intakes"/NIOSH-OVER-0002, rev. 0, "Workplace Ingestion"
- ORAUT-PROC-0031, rev. 01, "DOE Technical Basis Document Development, Review, and Approval Process"
- ORAUT-OTIB-0083, rev. 00, "Dissolution Models for Insoluble Plutonium-238" superseded by DCAS-RPT-005, rev. 01, "Alternative Dissolution Models for Insoluble Pu-238"
- OCAS-PER-020, rev. 0, "Blockson TBD Revision"
- OCAS-PR-007, rev. 1, "Dose Reconstruction Review"

After Ms. Behling presented the Subcommittee's work on each document, the Board voted to close the reviews of all five documents.

SEC Petition Status Update – Mr. Chuck Nelson, DCAS

Mr. Nelson reported that DCAS had recently received three SEC petitions. One, which is numbered SEC-261, was submitted on behalf of some Danish citizens who had assisted in the cleanup of a B-52 crash near Thule Air Force Base in Greenland. A nuclear weapon was damaged in that crash. Neither Thule Air Force Base nor the area of the crash is listed as a covered facility. DCAS is working with DOE and DOL to determine what, if anything, can be done with that petition. The second, which is numbered SEC-262, was submitted in error. A claimant with a dose reconstruction misunderstood instructions they received from DOL and submitted a petition form in error. That petition has been withdrawn. The third is a petition for the Weldon Spring Site. That one will begin the qualification process soon.

Two petitions are undergoing evaluation, SEC-221 for Lawrence Livermore National Lab for the years 1990 to 1995, and SEC-057 for Hanford for the years 1984 to 2021. Nine petitions are under Board consideration. They are SEC-0103 for Savannah River, SEC-0109 for Los Alamos National Lab, SEC-0219 for Idaho National Lab, SEC-0224 for Argonne National Lab West, SEC-0235 for Area IV Santa Susanna, SEC-0236 for Metals & Controls, SEC-0246 for DeSoto Avenue Facility, SEC-0250 for the Y-12 Plant, and SEC-0256 for the Pinellas Plant. Additionally, DCAS is considering a possible SEC for the AWE period of West Valley Demonstration Project, 1966-1968.

Metals & Controls (M&C) Work Group Update – Ms. Josie Beach, Chair

Ms. Beach recounted the history of radiological operations at Metals & Controls, then described the discussion that have occurred in the Work Group. DCAS's evaluation concluded that dose reconstruction was feasible during the residual contamination period, but the Work Group is not convinced. The Work Group considers the intrusive work performed at Metals & Controls during the residual contamination period is similar to that at Linde Ceramics. An SEC class was added for the residual contamination period at Linde Ceramic. Discussions on this matter are continuing.

Board Work Session

Several Subcommittee and Work Group chairs described recent activities and future plans. Board members were particularly complimentary toward recent facility tours that DOE provided for Idaho National Lab and the LANSCE facility at Los Alamos National Lab. Dr. Roberts recounted the public comments received at the April Board meeting. She then reminded Board members of scheduled meetings: an in-person meeting on December 6 and 7 in the area of Livermore, California, a teleconference on February 14, 2024, and an in-person meeting on April 17 or 18, 2024. The Board discussed the possibility of avoiding December meetings because of holidays and the weather but did not arrive at a more favorable alternative. They then scheduled a teleconference for

June 26, 2024, at 11:00 am Eastern time, an in-person meeting for August 7 and 8, and an in-person meeting for December 4 and 5.

Savannah River Site (SRS) Work Group Update – Mr. Bob Barton, SC&A

Mr. Barton presented the current status of the Savannah River Site Work Group's discussions. The Board has already recommended an SEC class for subcontractor construction trades workers through 1990, withholding judgment on later dates. The Work Group is still deciding what date to recommend for the end of this class. The discussion centers around SC&A's review of DCAS's Report 92, which is a description of the bioassay data available for subcontract construction trades workers. Mr. Barton described SC&A's conclusions from their review of that document, as well as DCAS's response to those conclusions. The Work Group will continue its discussions at future meetings.

After the Savannah River discussion the Board returned to scheduling future meetings. A phone call meeting was scheduled for October 9, 2023.

Public Comment

Members of the public provided comments related to the Metals & Controls SEC Petition, the Pinellas Plant, the fact that only a small fraction of all nuclear weapons workers have submitted EEOICPA claims, and questioning if the program is meeting its responsibilities. Additionally, Dr. Roberts read a letter from Sen. Edward Markey supporting an SEC Petition for certain Metals & Controls workers.

Meeting Adjourned

Dr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:46 pm.