

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
Meeting 155

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Summary Proceedings

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health meeting convened via Zoom and telephone at 11:00 Eastern Standard Time (EST), Dr. Henry A. Anderson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

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

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

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Official
Nancy Adams, NIOSH contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Ron Buchanan
Grady Calhoun, DCAS
Madeline Cook, DCAS
Denise DeGarmo, Petitioner representative
Joe Fitzgerald, SC&A
Rose Gogliotti, SC&A

Greg Lewis, DOE
Amy Mangel, SC&A
Chuck Nelson, DCAS
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Michael Rafky, HHS
LaVon Rutherford, DCAS
Tim Taulbee, DCAS
Brant Ullsh, NIOSH
John Vance, DOL

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health via Zoom and telephone at 11:00 am EST on December 7, 2023, and announced that Dr. Cassano had resigned from the Board. 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), John Vance (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 reported that the Site Research Database has been restored on the ORAU system following cybersecurity updates. DCAS is working to provide Board members and SC&A staff access to it. The next applications to be restored will be the Board Review System and the SEC Viewer.

Pinellas Work Group– Brad Clawson, WG Chair and Steve Ostrow, SC&A

Dr. Ostrow presented the slides that had been used at the November 20, 2023, Pinellas Work Group Meeting. They contain the information available at that time from SEC's review of the Pinellas SEC Petition number SEC-00256 Evaluation Report. At the November 2023 Work Group meeting, DCAS had presented the Evaluation Report (ER) for SEC Petition-00256, SC&A had presented the results of their review of the ER, and DCAS had presented a response to SC&A's review.

Dr. Ostrow briefly described the history of Pinellas operations, the various radiation sources that were present at Pinellas, and the history of SEC Petition-00256. The Petition covers the period from January 1, 1957, through December 31, 1990. In the ER DCAS concluded that dose reconstruction was feasible for all employees, so an SEC class was not warranted. SC&A's review of the ER resulted in no findings, but 13 observations. Some of the observations spoke of good practices at Pinellas, and convincing information in the ER. However, some raised questions about the conclusions in the ER. Additionally, the petitioners' representative has submitted and continues to submit documents that are relevant to the Work Group's deliberations. Going forward the Work Group, DCAS, and SC&A will work to address the information received from the petitioners' representative and the questions raised by some of SC&A's observations.

SEC Petition Status Update – Mr. Chuck Nelson, DCAS

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.

Background and Update on Subcommittee on Procedures Reviews Activities – Ms. Josie Beach, Subcommittee Chair

After introductory remarks by Ms. Beach, Subcommittee Chair, Ms. Kathy Behling, SC&A briefly summarized the history of the Subcommittee for Procedures Reviews and described the accomplishments of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee reviews several types of technical documents that the program uses to guide its activities: Technical Information Bulletins, Implementation Guides, Program Evaluation Reports, Reports, and Procedures. Ms. Behling provided the number of active documents in each category as well as the number that had been reviewed by the Subcommittee and the number of those that had been presented to the full Board. She noted that the program also uses site-specific Technical Basis Documents, but those are typically reviewed by site-specific Work Groups. However, for sites with just a few claims, DCAS often uses Dose Reconstruction Methodologies or Dose Reconstruction Templates to provide guidance to dose reconstructors. SC&A has recently begun reviewing this for the Subcommittee. Since it is best to use an actual dose reconstruction when reviewing methods and templates, the Subcommittee is discussing a joint effort with Dr. Kotelchuck, the chair of the Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews. Finally, Ms. Behling described the manner in which the Subcommittee's findings are being tracked since the Board Review System was disabled by the Cybersecurity Modernization Initiative.

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

Ms. Beach reported that the Metals & Controls Work Group had met the day before and had voted to recommend adding an SEC class. That action won't be considered by the Board today, but rather at the Board's April meeting. Ms. Beach's presentation described the reasons why the Work Group concluded that dose reconstruction was not feasible at Metals & Controls. Board members will receive detailed information from the Work Group's discussion before the April meeting.

Board Work Session

Several Subcommittee and Work Group chairs described recent activities and future plans. Dr. Anderson reminded members that a Board phone call is scheduled for February 14, 2024, and an in-person meeting is scheduled for April 17 and 18. A few potential locations were mentioned, but based on the short agenda, there was considerable sentiment for conducting the April meeting virtually. Next Dr. Roberts summarized the public comments from the Board's August meeting.

Public Comment

A member of the public provided comments related to the Pinellas Plant.

Meeting Adjourned

Dr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:08 pm.