

Summary Minutes October 3, 2007
NIOSH/CDC Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Review

**THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR DOSE RECONSTRUCTION REVIEW
OF THE
ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

**Summary Minutes of the Seventh Meeting
October 3, 2007**

The Seventh Meeting of the Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Review (the subcommittee) of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH or the Board) was held at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville, Illinois on October 3, 2007. The meeting was called to order by **Dr. Lewis Wade**, the Designated Federal Official, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the agency chartered with administering the ABRWH. These summary minutes, as well as a verbatim transcript certified by a court reporter, are available on the internet on the NIOSH/Office of Compensation Analysis and Support (OCAS) web site located at www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas.

Those present included the following:

Subcommittee Members:

Mr. Mark Griffon, Chair; Mr. Bradley Clawson (Alternate); Mr. Michael Gibson; Ms. Wanda Munn; Dr. John Poston; Mr. Robert Presley (Alternate).

Designated Federal Official: Dr. Lewis Wade, Executive Secretary.

Department of Health and Human Services:

Ms. Liz Homoki-Titus, Office of the General Counsel.

Dr. Christine Branche, Office of the Director of NIOSH.

Mr. Stuart Hinnefeld, Dr. Jim Neton (NIOSH).

Ms. Kathy Behling (telephonically); Mr. Doug Farver, Dr. John Mauro, Sanford Cohen & Associates.

Mr. Scott Siebert, Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

Dr. Paul Ziemer, Chairman of ABRWH.

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Opening Remarks

Dr. Lewis Wade,
NIOSH

The meeting was called to order by **Dr. Lewis Wade**, Designated Federal Official for the Advisory Board. **Dr. Wade** introduced the Chairman of the subcommittee, **Mr. Mark Griffon**, and members **Mr. Michael Gibson**, **Dr. John Poston**, **Ms. Wanda Munn**, Alternates **Mr. Bradley Clawson** and **Mr. Robert Presley**. **Dr. Wade** noted all members and alternates were present and participating in the meeting.

Also recognized by **Dr. Wade** was Board Chairman **Dr. Paul Ziemer**, who was observing from the audience.

Instructions were given for interaction between telephone participants and members at the table in an effort to make comments audible to those engaging in dialogue as well as those listening.

The issues to be discussed were reviews of the fourth and fifth sets of cases, with a discussion of blind reviews. **Dr. Wade** indicated that copies of discussion materials could be made for those who needed them.

Dr. Christine Branche was introduced to the audience by **Dr. Wade**, explaining that she is training to assume the responsibilities of DFO at some point in the future. He noted she would be sitting close to the table during the meeting.

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Subcommittee Chairman **Mr. Mark Griffon** introduced others at the table including **Mr. Stuart Hinnefeld** from NIOSH, **Mr. Scott Siebert** from the ORAU team, with **Ms. Kathy Behling** participating by telephone on behalf of SC&A. **Mr. Hinnefeld** also noted other NIOSH staff would be available by telephone if needed during the discussions.

Mr. Griffon announced there had been a meeting of the subcommittee between the last full Board meeting and this, although he wasn't sure of the date, at which time the subcommittee had discussed the fourth, fifth and sixth sets of cases. He remarked they had come close to resolution on almost all the findings in the fourth and fifth sets.

Mr. Griffon commented he would update those matrices to show the program actions in the final resolution column as being completed, and would clarify issues as they proceeded through this review.

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**Audit Finding Resolution
Fourth Set of Reviewed Cases**

Mr. Griffon led the subcommittee through a discussion of the matrix of the fourth set, working from a document which had been updated on September 26th, 2007. As they proceeded through the document, each finding was addressed individually and in considerable detail.

Due to extreme difficulty with the telephone connection, **Mr. Doug Farver** from SC&A, who was present in the audience, joined the participants in order to assist with comments made by **Ms. Behling**. Due to breaks in the transmission it was difficult for the subcommittee members to comprehend fully the content of her remarks. **Mr. Farver** had worked with **Dr.** and **Ms. Behling** on the review of the cases and was able to clarify issues for the subcommittee.

As each finding was discussed, it was determined what the next step in the resolution process would be, or closed out if the issue had been resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

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**Audit Finding Resolution
Fifth Set of Reviewed Cases**

Turning next to the matrix for the fifth set of cases, **Mr. Griffon** indicated that he was going to work from a smaller matrix which **Mr. Hinnefeld** had distributed. He explained that if a finding did not appear on this short matrix, and unless he mentioned them otherwise, subcommittee members could presume they were closed out in the last meeting. That closeout could have been by agreement or having been deferred to another workgroup or site profile review.

The same procedure was followed as for the fourth set, with findings being discussed individually and in detail. The next step in the process of reaching resolution was agreed to or, where appropriate, ultimate resolution was noted.

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Discussion of Blind Reviews

Mr. Griffon announced that **Mr. Hinnefeld** had distributed to the subcommittee members and alternates a spreadsheet containing the blind review potential cases. **Mr. Griffon** suggested the members look through and highlight two or three cases they felt would be good candidates for blind review. Once they had done that, he asked the spreadsheet be returned to him, indicating he would speak with **Mr. Hinnefeld** outside the meeting.

Mr. Griffon explained the idea was to avoid discussion of the selection publicly in order that the cases remain blind to the contractor. Because the matrix contained identifiable information, it should not be submitted to the public record.

Ms. Liz Homoki-Titus from the HHS Office of General Counsel expressed a concern about the subcommittee doing its work without the sanction of an appropriately-closed meeting. She suggested perhaps she and **Dr. Wade** should discuss the matter and determine how best to handle it.

Mr. Griffon agreed, noting that the issue is how best to keep the cases blind to the contractor. In the meantime, he maintained his suggestion that members review the matrix and select what they felt might be appropriate cases, although there won't be a ruling on it at this time. Members could make their comments to him individually and, as the Chair, he would make a decision.

Adding that he would like to receive the members' suggestions before the end of the full Board meeting on Friday, **Mr. Griffon** emphasized that those suggestions be made with no discussion or deliberation with him personally.

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Future Plans and Actions

Mr. Griffon observed that at the last meeting of the subcommittee they had discussed the sixth set of cases. Updating the status, he reported that NIOSH has provided responses, although SC&A has not yet evaluated them. That will be brought to the subcommittee process as soon as possible.

Mr. Hinnefeld added that he had released a sixth set matrix with some initial responses.

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Describing his anticipated path forward for the subcommittee, **Mr. Griffon** expressed an intention to meet again before the December 6 Board meeting. While it could possibly be timed for some of the other work to be underway, his aim was for a closeout of the fourth and fifth sets of cases in order to report a final version of those two matrices during the full Board phone call on December 6th.

Mr. Griffon commented he would work on finding a date for such a meeting and e-mail the members with the information as soon as he got a sense of how long it would take.

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With no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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I hereby confirm that these Summary Minutes are accurate, to the best of my knowledge.

Mark Griffon, Subcommittee Chairman

Date