



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

4676 Columbia Parkway, MS: C-46

Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

(513) 533-6825

September 1, 2010

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The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated SEC Petition-00166 concerning workers at the Ames Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort status be accorded to all employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and its contractors or subcontractors who worked in any area of the Department of Energy facility at the Ames Laboratory from January 1, 1955 through December 31, 1960, for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days, occurring either solely under this employment, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the Special Exposure Cohort.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- Employees at the Ames Laboratory during the time period in question worked on research and production activities related to nuclear weapons production.
- The NIOSH review of available monitoring data, as well as available process and source term information, for the various nuclear research and production activities at the Ames Laboratory found that there were insufficient data to estimate with sufficient accuracy internal exposures to various radionuclides (other than uranium and thorium contamination resulting from earlier production activities) for workers at this facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these Ames Laboratory facility workers during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussions held at our August 10-12, 2010 Advisory Board meeting in Idaho Falls, Idaho, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted.

Enclosed is the documentation from the Board meeting(s) where this Special Exposure Cohort class was discussed. The documentation includes transcripts of the deliberations, copies of the petition, the NIOSH review thereof, and related materials. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

[Signature on file]

James M. Melius, M.D., Dr. PH
Chairman, Advisory Board on Radiation and
Worker Health

Enclosure