



## ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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January 15, 2016

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The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell  
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 Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 00229 concerning workers at the Battelle Laboratories-King Avenue in Columbus, Ohio, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13.

The Board respectfully recommends that SEC status be accorded to:

“All Atomic Weapons Employees who worked at the facility owned by the Battelle Laboratories at the King Avenue site in Columbus, Ohio, during the period from July 1, 1956, through December 31, 1970, 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 included in the Special Exposure Cohort.”

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- Individuals employed at this facility in Columbus, Ohio, during the time periods in question worked on operations related to nuclear weapons production and may have been exposed to thorium and uranium.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) review of available monitoring data, as well as available process and source term information for this facility found that NIOSH lacked the sufficient information necessary to complete individual dose reconstructions with sufficient accuracy for internal exposures to thorium to which these workers may have been subjected during the time periods in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for employees at this facility during the time periods in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the November 18, 2015, Board meeting held in Oakland, California, Board recommends that this class be added to the SEC.

Enclosed is the documentation from the Board meeting(s) where this SEC class was discussed. The documentation includes 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, ABRWH

Enclosure