



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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June 11, 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-0056 concerning workers at the Bethlehem Steel facility in Lackawanna, New York under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all Atomic Weapons Employer employees who worked at the Bethlehem Steel facility in Lackawanna, New York from January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1952, 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:

- People working at this facility during the time period in question worked on the production of uranium metal products related to nuclear weapons production.
- The Board's review of available data found that it lacked adequate source term, process, or monitoring data in order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstructions for internal radiation doses for employees at this facility during the time period in question.
- The Board determined that health may have been endangered for these Bethlehem facility workers.

Based on these considerations and the discussions held at our May 19 to 21, 2010, Advisory Board meeting held in Niagara Falls, New York, 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, ABRWH

Enclosure