



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

4676 Columbia Parkway, MS: C-46
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226
(513) 533-6825

August 4, 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 Petitions-0045 and 0058 concerning workers at the Blockson Chemical Company facility in Joliet, Illinois 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 Blockson Chemical Company in Joliet, Illinois from March 1, 1951 to June 30, 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 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 for use in nuclear weapons.
- The Board's review of available data found that NIOSH lacked adequate source term, process, or monitoring data in order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstructions for internal radiation doses from radon for employees at this facility during the time period in question. There were no radon monitoring data available for the facility during the time period in question, and attempts to model the radon exposures at this facility were found not to be adequate.
- The Board determined that health may have been endangered for these Blockson Chemical Company workers.

Based on these considerations and the discussions held at our July 14, 2010, Advisory Board teleconference meeting, 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