



## ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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April 22, 2015

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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 00216 concerning workers at the Dow Chemical Company facility in Pittsburg, California, 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 Employer employees who worked for Dow Chemical Company in Pittsburg, California, from October 1, 1947, through June 30, 1957, 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 Pittsburg, California, during the time period in question worked on research for the production of materials to be used for nuclear weapons.
- 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 and external radiological exposures to uranium to which these workers may have been subjected during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for employees at this facility during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the March 25 and 26, 2015, Board meeting held in Richland, Washington, the 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