



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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November 16, 2009

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

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Dear Madam Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 0152 concerning workers at the Hanford site in Richland, Washington, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends SEC status be accorded to all employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and its contractors and subcontractors who worked at the Hanford site in Richland, Washington, from October 1, 1943 through June 30, 1972, 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:

- The Hanford site is a DOE covered facility from 1942 to present and serves as a facility involved with numerous radiological activities.
- NIOSH found that it lacks sufficient information, which includes biological monitoring data, sufficient air monitoring information, or sufficient process and radiological source data, to allow it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the potential internal exposures to purified polonium, thorium, or neptunium during the time period in question from October 1, 1943 through June 30, 1972. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

The Secretary

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Based on these considerations and the discussions held at our October 20 to 22, 2009, Advisory Board meeting in Port Jefferson, New York the Board recommends that Special Exposure Cohort status 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.]

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chairman, ABRWH

Enclosure