



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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January 31, 2013

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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 Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 00155 concerning workers at the Hanford site, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 and incorporated into 42 C.F.R. § 83.13.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has recommended that individual dose reconstructions are feasible for:

“All personnel who were internally monitored (urine or fecal), who worked at the Plutonium Finishing Plant in the 200 Area at the Hanford Site, from January 1, 1987, to December 31, 1989.”

NIOSH found no evidence that the integrity of the bioassay data being used for dose reconstruction for this proposed class was affected by the environmental data falsification problem at the laboratory doing the bioassay analysis. Consequently, NIOSH has concluded that it has access to adequate exposure monitoring and other information necessary to do individual dose reconstructions with sufficient accuracy for members of the class covered by Petition 00155. Therefore, the class of workers covered by Petition 00155 should not be added to the SEC. The Board concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the December 11 and 12, 2012, Board meeting held in Knoxville, Tennessee, the Board recommends that this class not 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