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December 29, 2011

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 00141 concerning workers at the Hooker Electrochemical Corporation in Niagara Falls, New York, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) 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 employees who worked in any location at the Hooker Electrochemical Corporation during the operational period from January 1, 1943 through December 31, 1948, and during the residual period from January 1, 1949 to December 31, 1976.

NIOSH found that it has access to adequate information necessary to do individual dose reconstructions with sufficient accuracy for members of this group, and therefore a class covering this group should not be added to the SEC. The Board concurs with this determination.

Enclosed is the supporting documentation from the December 7-8, 2011, Board meeting held in Tampa, Florida and earlier meetings where this potential 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

