



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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October 31, 2012

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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 00109 concerning workers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, 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 employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and their contractors and subcontractors who worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in Los Alamos, New Mexico, from January 1, 1976, through December 31, 1995, 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 the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, during the time period in question worked on the development and production of 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 radiological exposures to fission and activation products and various other radionuclides of concern 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 these Los Alamos National Laboratory employees during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the September 18 to 20, 2012, Board meeting held in Denver, Colorado, 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