



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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December 29, 2011

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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 00154 concerning workers at the Linde Ceramics Plant in Tonawanda, New York, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13.

The Board respectfully recommends that SEC status be accorded to:

"All Atomic Weapons Employees who worked in any area at the Linde Ceramics Plant in Tonawanda, New York, from November 1, 1947 through December 31, 1953, 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 SEC."

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- Individuals employed at the Linde facility during the time period in question worked on the production of materials for nuclear weapons and/or in the decontamination of buildings where these materials had previously been produced.
- 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 due to uranium and uranium progeny (with the exception of radon) during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these Linde Ceramics Plant employees during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the December 7 to 8, 2011 Board meeting held in Tampa, Florida, the Board recommends that this class be added to the SEC.

The Secretary

December 29, 2011

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