



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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March 28, 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 00173 concerning workers at the Norton Company in Worcester, Massachusetts, 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 Employer employees who worked at the Norton Company (or a subsequent owner) in Worcester Massachusetts, from January 1, 1958 through October 10, 1962, 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:

- The Norton Company performed research and manufactured several products under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) evaluation found that there were insufficient data to complete individual dose reconstructions with sufficient accuracy for internal and external exposures during the decontamination and decommissioning activities that took place during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the February 23-25, 2011 Board meeting held in Augusta, Georgia, the Board recommends that this class be added to the SEC.

The Secretary

March 28, 2011

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]

James M. Melius, M.D., Dr. PH
Chairman, ABRWH

Enclosure