



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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August 28, 2009

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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 0148 concerning workers at the Norton Company in Worcester, Massachusetts, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends SEC status be accorded to all Atomic Weapons Employer (AWE) employees who worked at the Norton Company in Worcester, Massachusetts, from January 1, 1945 through December 31, 1957, 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 is an AWE covered facility from January 1, 1945 to December 31, 1957 and performed research and manufactured several products under contract with the Atomic Energy Commission.
- NIOSH found that there were insufficient data from January 1, 1945 to December 31, 1957 from which to draw conclusions regarding potential magnitude of internal doses from exposure to uranium, thorium, or their progeny radionuclides. NIOSH also determined that there were insufficient data from which to draw conclusions regarding potential magnitude of external exposures from uranium and thorium work. The Board concurs with these conclusions.

- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussions held at the July 29, 2009, Board meeting in West Chester, Ohio, the Board recommends SEC status be granted. The Board notes that NIOSH will use individual external and internal monitoring data that are available to complete dose reconstructions for non-presumptive cancer claims and for those who do not qualify for the SEC. For these individuals, NIOSH will also reconstruct medical doses using the complex-wide Technical Information Bulletin Dose Reconstruction from Occupationally Related Diagnostic X-ray Procedures.

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.]

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chair

Enclosures