



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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August 28, 2013

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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 0068 concerning workers at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, 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 Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, from January 1, 1984, through December 31, 1991, 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:

- Workers at this facility during the time period in question were involved in operations related to nuclear weapons production.
- The Board's review of available monitoring data, as well as available process and source term information for this facility found that NIOSH lacked the sufficient information allowing it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the internal doses from potential exposure to uranium and thorium related to the disassembly of weapons systems during the time period from 1984 through 1990, and to thorium in 1991, which employees working at this facility may have been subjected.
- The Board also determined that health may have been endangered for these Pantex Plant employees during the time period in question.

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the July 16 and 17, 2013, Board meeting held in Idaho Falls, Idaho, 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