



## ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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March 5, 2010

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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 SEC Petition-00156 concerning workers at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory – Area IV under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and their contractors or subcontractors who worked in any area of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory from January 1, 1959 through December 31, 1964, 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:

- The Santa Susana – Area IV facility was involved in the development and testing of nuclear reactors and related research.
- NIOSH found that there was insufficient monitoring data or information on radiological operations at this facility in order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstructions involving internal radiation exposures for Area IV workers during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation in Area IV during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussions held at our February 9-11, 2010 Advisory Board meeting in Manhattan Beach, California, the Board recommends that this SEC petition be granted.

Enclosed is the documentation from the Board meeting(s) where this SEC 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