



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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September 12, 2012

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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 00198 concerning workers at the Ventron Corporation site in Beverly, 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 Employees who worked for the Ventron Corporation at its facility in Beverly, Massachusetts, from November 1, 1942, through December 31, 1948, 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:

- Individuals employed at the Ventron Corporation site in Beverly, Massachusetts, during the time period in question worked on the production and processing of uranium for use in nuclear weapons.
- 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 sufficient information to allow it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the potential internal and external radiation doses from exposures to uranium, thorium, and uranium progeny to which employees at this facility may have been subjected from November 1, 1942, through December 31, 1948. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these Ventron Corporation employees during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussion during the August 15, 2012, Board teleconference meeting, 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