



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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July 27, 2012

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 00199 concerning workers at the Winchester Engineering and Analytical Center in Winchester, 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 employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and their contractors and subcontractors who worked at the Winchester Engineering and Analytical Center in Winchester, Massachusetts, from January 1, 1952, through December 31, 1961, 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 Winchester Engineering and Analytical Center during the time period in question worked on technology for extracting uranium and thorium from uranium-bearing ores and on procedures for reducing radiological hazards associated with mill operations.
- 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 the sufficient information, which includes in vivo and in-vitro monitoring data, to allow it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the potential internal and external exposures to uranium, thorium, or their progeny to which employees at this facility may have been subjected. The Board concurs with this determination.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these Winchester Engineering and Analytical Center employees during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

The Secretary

July 27, 2012

Based on these considerations and the discussion at the June 19 to 21, 2012, Board meeting held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 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