



## ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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January 24, 2019

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*Vacant*

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The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated SEC Petition 00251 concerning workers at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 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 Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, during the period January 1, 1958, through December 31, 1976, 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 in the Special Exposure Cohort.”

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- Individuals working at Y-12 during the time period in question worked on nuclear weapons production and related operations.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) evaluation of available exposure data, which includes biological monitoring, air monitoring information, or process monitoring information, concluded that NIOSH lacked adequate information, to allow it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the potential internal exposures to thorium (including associated progeny) or plutonium-241 to which the proposed class of employees may have been exposed. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the employees exposed to radiation at the Y-12 during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations and the discussions held at the December 12-13, 2018, Board meeting in Redondo Beach, California, 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]

Henry Anderson, M.D.  
Chair, SEC Issues Work Group  
*on behalf of the*  
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health

Enclosure