

A Tribute to Phil Schofield

Members of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (the Board) wish to pay tribute to Mr. Phillip Schofield who resigned September first of this year, 2022, from the Board after his long and distinguished tenure. Phil was appointed to the Board by President George W. Bush in 2007. Prior to serving on the Board, Phil worked for Los Alamos National Laboratory for twenty-one years. His extensive understanding and experience in handling and processing of Plutonium and Americium contributed to the Board's work over his years as a Board member. Phil spent his last five years at Los Alamos National Laboratory as an Operations Center Specialist, running and monitoring all systems at the (TA-55) plutonium facility and working as a volunteer with the Los Alamos Project on Worker Safety. Throughout its cold war history, few in the nuclear weapons complex have faced so many unique, exceptionally hazardous radiation risks squarely and knowingly, in secret, as he has.

Other cold war patriots have written or spoken at length about their health sacrifices, but that was never Phil. The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) was meant especially for him and his fellow workers above others, as Phil is one of those patriots.

Phil always asked the questions that his fellow workers would have asked if they did not have an opportunity, both those who knew they might be in harm's way and those who didn't. He represented all atomic energy workers graciously and respectfully, and he did not let up on their behalf. Phil was always present - a bit mountain-like - a remarkable feat considering the many health issues he faced.

The Board has benefitted from and will long remember his enduring collegial and softspoken manner, his chairing of work groups, and his good company during meetings.

In as much as Phil has made significant contributions to the ongoing work of the Board during his years of membership, we who remain as members of the Board gratefully thank him for his service. He has served the Board and this country well!

This tribute is hereby adopted this 20th day of October 2022, at the 148th meeting of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.