



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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May 19, 2009

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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 00129 concerning workers at the Standard Oil Development Company, in Linden, New Jersey, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 (c)(1) and 42CFR Sec. 83.13 (c)(3). The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) designation be accorded to all Atomic Weapons Employer (AWE) employees who worked at the Standard Oil Development Company in Linden New Jersey from August 13, 1942 through December 31, 1945 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 SEC. The Board notes that although NIOSH found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, they believe that they are able to reconstruct the occupational medical dose.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- The Standard Oil Development Company was involved in early development work relate to uranium enrichment for the manufacture of atomic weapons.
- NIOSH was unable to locate sufficient monitoring data, information on operations at the site, and source term information at this site in order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstructions for potential internal and external radiation exposures to which these workers may have been subjected. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation at this facility during the time period in question. The Board also concurs with this determination.

Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our May 12, 2009, Advisory Board meeting held in Amarillo, Texas, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted. The Board notes that NIOSH is continuing to evaluate information on potential exposures during the residual contamination period from 1946 to 2006, and will make a recommendation regarding this time period sometime in the future.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board where this Special Exposure Cohort class was discussed. The documentation includes transcripts of the deliberations, copies of the petition, and the NIOSH review thereof, and related documents distributed by NIOSH. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul L. Ziemer".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chair

Enclosure