



AMES LABORATORY

November 11, 2005

Mr. Larry Elliott
Director, Office of Compensation Analysis and Support
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-46
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Mr. Elliott:

Subject: Special Exposure Cohort Petition

I am writing in support of the petition to designate a class of employees of Iowa State University and Ames Laboratory on the Iowa State University Campus to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) of 2000. The period of activities covered by the petition is January 1, 1942 through December 31, 1955. The employees worked on materials production processes for the Manhattan Project and subsequently the Ames Laboratory, after its creation in 1947.

The work at Ames was performed in one of the earliest environments where nuclear materials were processed, with exposure controls that, although normal at that time, would be deemed unsuitable by today's standards. Very limited monitoring and exposure data are available for the time period involved, and there are significant uncertainties regarding the monitoring techniques in place at that time. It is likely that radiation and chemical exposure doses during this period could have endangered the health of members of this class of employees and it is not feasible to estimate exposures with reasonable accuracy.

Ames Laboratory supports the petition filed by Dr. Laurence J. Fuortes, M.D., University of Iowa College of Public Health and several former employees. Ames Laboratory safety and occupational medicine specialists are willing to provide additional assistance and historical information to support efforts associated with this SEC petition. I appreciate your efforts to assist our former employees through the SEC petition process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

T. J. Barton
Director, Ames Laboratory

Cc: Dr. Laurence J. Fuortes