

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2007

Dr. Paul Ziemer, Chair
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
4676 Columbia Parkway, MS: C-46
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

03-27-07P12916-ARNV

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Dear Dr. Ziemer:

I write to express my support for the Special Exposure Cohort Petition #00046 filed by former employees and their survivors of the Feed Materials Production Center, also known as Fernald.

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP) was created by Congress in 2000 to ensure that American energy workers were compensated for serious diseases caused by exposure to radiation, beryllium or silica during the course of their work. These workers were involved in important, often top-secret, work during the Cold War and the dangers of this work were frequently hidden.

For many of these employees, the exact amount of exposure to dangerous materials is difficult, if not impossible, to determine. Special Exposure Cohorts (SECs) were created so that these workers and their survivors would not be denied benefits due to incomplete information regarding levels of exposure. The former employees of Fernald are facing this exact obstacle due to Cold War era recordkeeping that was imprecise, inaccurate and generally flawed. I question the ability of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to create dose reconstructions by using incomplete records combined with data from other unrelated facilities.

Employees and their survivors should not face additional suffering due to erroneous records and therefore, a new SEC class for Fernald workers should be created. These dedicated Americans deserve the same benefits afforded others who worked under dangerous, top-secret conditions during the Cold War. The reliance on insufficient evidence in determining whether these workers deserve benefits defies the mission of the EEOICP to protect this country's at risk energy workers.

I thank the Board for its attention to this matter and its serious consideration of SEC Petition #00046.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator