

ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

4676 Columbia Parkway, MS: C-46
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226
(513) 533-6825



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The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated SEC Petition-00057-2 concerning workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Richland, Washington under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), its predecessor agencies, and DOE contractors or subcontractors, who worked from:

1. September 1, 1946 through December 31, 1961 in the 300 area;
or
2. January 1, 1949 through December 31, 1968 in the 200 areas (East and West);

at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation 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 may be able to reconstruct external doses and internal doses (other than americium and thorium).

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- The Hanford Reservations facility was involved in development and manufacture of nuclear weapons.
- NIOSH found that there was insufficient monitoring data or information on radiological operations at these laboratories in

order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstructions involving internal exposures to thorium in the 300 area and americium in the 200 areas of the facility during the time periods in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion.

- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation in the 200 and 300 Areas of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation during the time periods in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Tampa, Florida where this special exposure cohort class was discussed. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chairman

Enc.