



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH  
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July 12, 2008

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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 - 00098 under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 (c) (1) and 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 (c) (3). The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort status be accorded to all employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), its predecessor agencies, and DOE contractors and subcontractors who worked at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee from March 1, 1943 through December 31, 1947 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 other classes of employees in the Special Exposure Cohort. This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- The Y-12 facility during this time period was one of the earliest sites involved in the production of nuclear weapons and was constructed and operated during a time when radiation control and monitoring methods were still being developed.
- Monitoring data as well as information on sources of radiation exposures and process information are insufficient for adequate individual dose reconstruction for the time period involved. In particular, information needed for dose reconstruction on the calutron operations, an important source of exposure, is incomplete.
- A number of other radiological operations occurred at the Y-12 plant, and NIOSH does not have information that clearly describes all the buildings where radiological operations

occurred. Consequently, NIOSH is unable to determine if any specific group of employees was not potentially exposed to ionizing radiation.

- Only a limited number of individual bioassay samples are available and NIOSH has concluded that available data are too limited to support internal dose reconstruction. Although some air monitoring data are available, not enough is known about those samples to support dose reconstruction.
- NIOSH has not located any individual external monitoring results. In addition, NIOSH has not obtained any individual external monitoring data for this period and lacks source-term information about non-uranium radiological operations.

In its evaluation report, NIOSH has concluded that it is likely that radiation doses for this group of workers at Y-12 Plant during this time period could have endangered the health of members of this class. The Board concurs. The Board also notes that NIOSH is able to reconstruct doses from medical x-rays by means of existing project technical documents.

Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our June 24-26, 2008 Board meeting, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the Advisory Board Meeting held June 24-26 2008 in St. Louis, Missouri. This 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,

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.  
Chair

Enc.