



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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July 5, 2006

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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 -00038 concerning workers at the Ames Laboratory under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13. The Board respectfully recommends a Special Exposure Cohort be accorded to all Department of Energy (DOE) employees or its contractor or subcontractor employees who were monitored or should have been monitored while working at the Ames Laboratory in one or more of the following facilities/locations: Chemistry Annex 1 (also known as "the old women's gymnasium" and "Little Ankeny"), Chemistry Annex 2, Chemistry Building (also known as "Gilman Hall"), Research Building, or the Metallurgical Building (also known as Harley Wilhelm Hall) for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days during the period from January 1, 1942 through December 31, 1954, or in combination with the work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the SEC. This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- These workers were employed during the early years of nuclear weapon production.
- There are very little monitoring data available for the Ames Laboratory during the years in question. NIOSH concluded that the available monitoring and source term information is not sufficient to document or estimate the potential maximum radiation exposures for workers at the Ames Laboratory under plausible circumstances during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH has reviewed information which confirms that radiation exposures at the Ames Laboratory during the time period in question could have endangered the health of members of this class. The Board concurs with this conclusion.

The Board is still evaluating issues related to people who may have been exposed to radiation during discrete incidents that could have involved exceptionally high exposures to radiation while working at the Ames Laboratory (e.g., those who were present during the explosions and fires in some of the buildings) and who may not meet the 250 work day requirement described above. The Board will continue to review this matter and may make additional future recommendations regarding this group.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held on June 15, 2006 in Washington, DC where this special exposure cohort petition was discussed. This documentation includes transcripts of public comments on the petition, copies of the petition and the NIOSH review thereof, a report on the review of the NIOSH evaluation report prepared by the Board's contractor (SC&A, Inc.) and related documents distributed by NIOSH and the petitioners. 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.
Chairman

Encl.