



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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November 8, 2005

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 -00034 concerning workers in Building #2 at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C. 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 that a Special Exposure Cohort be accorded to all National Bureau of Standards employees who worked in Building #2 at this facility from 1943 to 1952 and whom were employed for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days, occurring under this employment or in combination with work days of employment occurring within the parameters (excluding aggregate work day requirements) established for other classes of employees included in the SEC. This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- These workers were employed at a facility that handled substantial amounts of radioactive materials during the early time period for the production of nuclear weapons.
- NIOSH was unable to find any personal or area monitoring data or other data that would be useful for individual dose reconstruction for these workers. However, available data indicates that these workers may have accumulated substantial chronic exposures through episodic intakes of radionuclides, combined with external exposures to gamma, beta, and neutron radiation. Furthermore, radiological contamination in the building extended beyond the laboratories in which the physicists worked.
- NIOSH has determined that the health of employees at this facility may have been endangered by their radiation exposures. The Board concurs.

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Based on these considerations, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the Advisory Board Meeting held October 19, 2005 in Knoxville, Tennessee. This documentation includes transcripts of public comments on the petition, copies of the petition and the NIOSH review thereof, 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 black ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Ziemer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Paul L. Ziemer, Chairman
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health

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