



## ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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October 26, 2007

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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-00080 concerning workers at the NUMEC facility 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 Atomic Weapons Employer (AWE) employees who were monitored, or should have been monitored, for exposure to ionizing radiation while working at the NUMEC Plant in Apollo, Pennsylvania for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days from January 1, 1957 through December 31, 1983, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the Special Exposure Cohort. The Board notes that although NIOSH found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, NIOSH believes that they are able to reconstruct components of the internal dose (uranium doses from 1960 on) and occupational medical X-ray doses.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- People working at the NUMEC facility during this time period were involved in a number of radiological operations for the AEC.
- The NIOSH review of the available monitoring data as well as the available source term and other information found that they lacked adequate information necessary to conduct accurate individual internal

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- dose reconstructions for radionuclides other than uranium (only feasible after 1960) and for external exposures other than medical x-rays.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for these NUMEC workers during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul L. Ziemer".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.  
Chairman

Enc.