



## ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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October 11, 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-00033 concerning workers at the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies (ORINS) 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 a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) be accorded to all employees of the DOE or DOE contractors or subcontractors who were monitored or should have been monitored while working at Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies Cancer Research Hospital from May 15, 1950 through December 31, 1963 and who were employed for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days during the period from May 15, 1950 through December 31, 1963 or in combination with 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:

- This facility conducted research on the use of various radioactive isotopes for the treatment of cancer. People working in this facility were exposed to these radioactive materials through a number of work activities. Although there was the potential for substantial internal exposures arising from preparing, administering, and disposing of radioisotopes and radioactive waste, NIOSH found no evidence of personal or workplace monitoring that could be used to bound internal radiation exposures. As a result of these limitations, NIOSH cannot establish a maximum internal exposure scenario that addresses all of the internal exposure potential for the petitioning class, and therefore, cannot estimate internal doses for this class with sufficient accuracy. The Board concurs with this determination.

- NIOSH determined that health was endangered for the workers at Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Sciences Cancer Research Hospital exposed to radiation at this facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- The NIOSH review of the data was found that it was sufficient to support accurate individual dose reconstruction for external doses and occupational medical doses for workers at the ORINS Cancer Research Hospital. The Board concurs with this determination.

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

Sincerely,



Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.  
Chairman

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