

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH
MEETING #160

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. EDT
via teleconference,
Dr. Henry Anderson, Chair, presiding.

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Members Present:

Henry Anderson, Chair
Josie Beach, Member
Bradley Clawson, Member
Arthur Frank, Member
James Lockey, Member
David Pompa, Member
Paul L. Ziemer, Member
Loretta Valerio, Member

Registered and/or Public Comment Participants:

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Official
Nancy Adams, NIOSH contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Ron Buchanan, SC&A
Grady Calhoun, DCAS
Emily Cane, DOL
Rose Gogliotti, SC&A
Amy Mangel, SC&A
Lori Marion-Moss, DCAS
Charles Nelson, DCAS
Jim Nowicki (ph)
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Michael Rafky, HHS

LaVon Rutherford, DCAS

Members Present continued:

Tim Taulbee, DCAS

Brant Ulsh, DCAS

Tim (Indiscernible), DOD

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PROCEEDINGS

11:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

DR. ROBERTS: Well, I have about 11:00 a.m. Eastern, so it's time to officially open the meeting. So, good morning, everyone. I'm Rashaun Roberts. I'm the designated -- designated federal official for the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health, and I'd like you -- to welcome you to this teleconference. The agenda for today's meeting is posted on the NIOSH website. If you go on the website, there's a schedule provided for meetings, and you can access the agenda under the October 2024 tab.

As you know, this meeting is being conducted by telephone only, so in order to keep the meeting moving forward without interruption, I would just ask each of you to make sure you mute your phone unless, of course, you're speaking. If you don't have a mute button, press star six to mute. If you need to take yourself off mute, press star six again. Also, because we're unable to see each other for this meeting, please identify yourself before your comments or questions.

So with that, I'd like to formally open the meeting. The primary purpose of today's meeting is to prepare for a full Board meeting in December. And I do hear that someone is off mute, so if you could, please check your phone. So again, the primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the full Board meeting in December, although there are other items, mainly updates, on today's agenda. Because this is primarily an administrative meeting, we don't need to go over conflict of interest.

So, with that said, let me go ahead and move into roll call now. And I will start with the Board Members in alphabetical order. Anderson?

CHAIR ANDERSON: Present.

DR. ROBERTS: Beach?

MEMBER BEACH: I'm here.

DR. ROBERTS: Clawson?

MEMBER CLAWSON: Here.

DR. ROBERTS: Frank?

MEMBER FRANK: Here.

DR. ROBERTS: Lockey?

MEMBER LOCKEY: Here.

DR. ROBERTS: Martinez? I'm sorry, was that Martinez? Okay.

Pompa?

MEMBER POMPA: Yes, ma'am. Good morning. I'm here.

DR. ROBERTS: Good morning. Valerio?

MEMBER VALERIO: I'm here.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. And Ziemer?

MEMBER ZIEMER: Yes, I'm here.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. And let me just circle back. Is Martinez on the line? Okay. I don't hear anything, but someone must be off mute, so please mute yourself. And I do want to note that Arthur Frank and Dave Pompa have joined, and they'll be in listening mode for today's meeting.

So, moving on with roll call. Let's go on to DCAS.

MR. CALHOUN: This is Grady Calhoun. I'm here.

MS. MARION-MOSS: Lori Marion-Moss. I'm here.

MR. RUTHERFORD: LaVon Rutherford.

DR. NELSON: This is Chuck Nelson.

DR. TAULBEE: This is Tim Taulbee.

DR. ULSH: Brant Ulsh is here.

MR. NOWICKI (ph): Jim Nowicki.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Anyone else for DCAS/ORAU? Okay. Let's move on to SC&A.

MR. BARTON: Bob Barton, SC&A.

MS. BEHLING: Kathy Behling.

DR. BUCHANAN: Ron Buchanan, SC&A.

MS. GOGLIOTTI: Rose Gogliotti.

MS. MANGEL: Amy Mangel.

DR. OSTROW: Steve Ostrow.

DR. ROBERTS: Anyone else for SC&A? Okay. Let's move on to -- to HHS and contractors.

MR. RAFKY: Michael Rafky, HHS.

MS. ADAMS: Nancy Adams, NIOSH contractor.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Anyone else, HHS or contractors? How about folks from the departments, Department of Labor, Department of Energy, other departments?

MS. CANE: Emily Cane, Department of Labor.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Tim --

DR. ROBERTS: Okay.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- Department of Defense.

DR. ROBERTS: Anyone else with any of the departments other than

HHS? Okay. And are there members of the public who would like to register their attendance today? Okay. Hearing none, thanks everybody. Let's go on and move into the agenda. But again, before we do that, please periodically check your phone to ensure that you're on mute. Again, if you don't have a mute button, press star six. If you need to take yourself off, star six again.

So with that, without any further delay, I'll turn the floor over to Dr. Henry Anderson who is the Board Chair, and he will lead the agenda. Andy.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Thanks Rashaun. I want to welcome everybody.

This is the 160th meeting of the Board. It's going to be a relatively quick meeting today and planning for December. And I really want to thank everybody who has hung in and kept issues of Board Membership and others at the forefront of people who need to know about it. And so, it's really been appreciated, all the effort that's gone into trying to get us all back on track and get new members as well. So hopefully, in December we'll all get together and really start a new approach to how we deal with things with the Board.

So with that, I'd like to turn it over to Grady Calhoun to give us a cybersecurity initiative update.

UPDATE ON CYBERSECURITY MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE

MR. CALHOUN: All right. Thank you, Dr. Anderson. This is Grady Calhoun. I don't have a whole lot new to report. We do -- as you know, we have the site research database and the board review system operational

and, I believe, that everybody can access that, that needs to. If you have any problems, please contact Lori Marion-Moss. She's the -- she'll get you in touch with the right person if you have any access issues.

We're continuing to work on the SEC viewer and just trying to button up a few little difficulties we're having there with accessing that. And then, of course, we're still working on NOCTS as well. So, there's a light at the end of the tunnel I believe, but I don't want to over promise. So, I think that we're -- we're getting there, and we're making a lot of progress.

Did somebody have a question? I heard something. No?

MEMBER BEACH: Yeah, Grady, this is Josie. I have a question, but it's more for Kathy. And not to put Kathy on the spot, but Kathy, you've been working with the BRS system since it went back online, and I'm just curious if you could just give us a brief update on how it's worked for you.

MS. BEHLING: Yeah. This is Kathy Behling. Yeah. Lori and -- and Rose and I have been back onto the BRS. At this point, we have put in several documents, but not all of the documents that we need to. Lori and I have been in communication and working, I think, with other members of the NIOSH staff in order to -- Lori needs to put these documents into the BRS first, and then I can update the findings and observations and all of the responses that NIOSH and SC&A had, but I need to wait for those documents to be uploaded first.

But we have done a trial run on two or three documents, and everything seems to be operating smoothly at this point.

MEMBER BEACH: Great. Do we have a timeline on that with -- with Lori? Maybe Lori has to answer that on -- I know there's a lot of documents

that need to be uploaded because we're a couple years behind. Is that something that is in the process, Lori, or -- so that we'll be able to get those documents loaded quickly?

MS. MARION-MOSS: This is Lori. Yes, Josie, we're -- we're working towards getting those documents in. And as we get them uploaded into the BRS, I will notify Kathy so the process can continue on. It's been a slow start, but I -- I expect that things will pick up here shortly.

MEMBER BEACH: Great. Thanks, Kathy and Lori. I appreciate it.

MS. MARION-MOSS: I didn't hear you --

CHAIR ANDERSON: Anything else, Grady?

MR. CALHOUN: Yeah, I just -- anybody -- any other questions on the -- on the cybersecurity IT stuff? Then I've got another announcement or two. Okay. Hearing none, I think you all know that I am retiring in January and Lori Marion-Moss will be the next director of DCAS, and she will take over at the end of January. So, congratulations to Lori and please give her your full support as you did me. Additionally, Tim Taulbee is retiring at the end of March of next year, and Brant Ulsh has been selected as the next ADS understudy, --

(Whereupon, a computer-generated announcement that the call is being recorded was played aloud.)

MR. CALHOUN: -- and Brant Ulsh is going to be taking Tim's place, and he'll take -- he'll take over officially in April. So, we have this kind of great process in place where we have six months of what they call an understudy. So, both of those folks can try to get -- get acclimated to all the things that we do. So, those are the two big personnel announcements

we have. And that's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Any questions -- further questions for Grady? Hearing none, let's move on to Chuck Nelson with a special exposure cohort status update.

SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT (SEC) STATUS UPDATE

DR. NELSON: Thank you, Dr. Anderson. Good morning, everyone. We won't be presenting any new initial SEC petitions at the December Board meeting. However, we do have an addendum that we'd like to present, and that's going to be on the -- it's an addendum to the evaluation report for SEC-221. So, that's Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and that addendum will address outstanding issues in the remaining years that was reserved, which was 1990 to 1995. So, we would like to present that, and it will be Mr. Mark Rolfes doing that presentation. So other than that, I'm expecting work group chairs to provide updates today, if they're needed, on the current SEC petitions with the Advisory Board. And with that, I'll ask if there are any questions.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you, Chuck. Next, let's move on to work group and subcommittees updates. There's been a couple of meetings held, so whoever wants to start, give us an update on the work groups.

UPDATES ON WORK GROUPS AND SUBCOMMITTEES

MEMBER CLAWSON: Yeah, Andy, this is Brad. We had a Savannah River work group meeting, and we discussed several issues and a path forward. That's about all I can say for it right now.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. Any other updates?

MEMBER CLAWSON: Andy, --

MEMBER ZIEMER: Brad, --

MEMBER CLAWSON: -- this is Brad, again.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay, Brad. Yeah. Go ahead.

MEMBER CLAWSON: So, yes, we -- we -- with the Savannah River work group we kind of came to a -- as a work group we came to a decision on some stuff, but we were going to wait until some situations are taken care of in the Board before we bring that forth and -- as -- as Paul knows about. So, I was just going to leave that probably until the next Board meeting until we can get these -- these issues taken care of.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah, thank you. Yeah, I know --

MEMBER ZIEMER: Yeah, this is Paul. Yeah, this is --

CHAIR ANDERSON: Go ahead.

MEMBER ZIEMER: -- Paul. Yeah. I was just going to add, I think the work group will be in a position to make a presentation, Brad, right, at the -- at the next full meeting. So, I think we'll need --

MEMBER CLAWSON: Well, yeah, --

MEMBER ZIEMER: -- on the agenda, as I recall, right?

MEMBER CLAWSON: Yes, we were gonna --

MEMBER ZIEMER: That was my --

MEMBER CLAWSON: -- we were gonna do that, --

MEMBER ZIEMER: -- understanding.

MEMBER CLAWSON: We want --

MEMBER ZIEMER: Yeah.

MEMBER CLAWSON: Yeah. We wanted -- I wanted to respect the request that you made of me before we proceeded on with any of that, so --

MEMBER ZIEMER: Yeah.

MEMBER CLAWSON: -- that -- that was my -- that was my hesitation, Paul.

MEMBER ZIEMER: Yeah. Yeah. Well, the rest of the Board might know that we were in an awkward position on voting since we had one work group member who was not allowed to participate. So, we -- procedure-wise it became very awkward, and I was certainly uncomfortable with it -- with the -- the sort of censorship that had been put on one of our members. And I think it sounds -- it sounds like from what I understand from Rashaun's email that that's been resolved, and the members are back in full position to participate. So, I think we'll be in a position to have the Savannah River material presented at the next meeting.

DR. ROBERTS: Hi. Paul, --

(Whereupon, Chair Anderson, Member Ziemer and Dr. Roberts speak simultaneously.)

DR. ROBERTS: -- to -- to -- to clarify, no, it hasn't. It hasn't been fully resolved, so those members are still in listening mode.

MEMBER ZIEMER: Okay.

CHAIR ANDERSON: We're waiting --

MEMBER ZIEMER: -- not okay.

CHAIR ANDERSON: -- for --

DR. ROBERTS: Yes.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah. It's gonna be resolved --

MEMBER CLAWSON: (Indiscernible) --

DR. ROBERTS: Right.

MEMBER CLAWSON: With that being said, Paul, we'll -- I'll work with Rashaun as we get closer to the December meeting, and --

MEMBER ZIEMER: Right.

MEMBER CLAWSON: -- we'll --

MEMBER ZIEMER: Right.

MEMBER CLAWSON: -- we'll discuss this out and do a path forward with it.

MEMBER ZIEMER: Yeah.

MEMBER CLAWSON: That's why I was a little bit hesitant in bringing some of this up. But I --

MEMBER ZIEMER: Yeah.

MEMBER CLAWSON: -- would like to report for the Pinellas work group that we were -- we had received a substantial amount of information from Dr. DeGarmo on the Pinellas site, and it's now in the hands of SC&A and NIOSH and that SC&A is going through the data. And as soon as they have an opportunity to review what was out there, then we're going to be able to set up a work group meeting for the Pinellas work group. So, I'd just like to say that. And that's it. Thanks.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Other updates?

MEMBER BEACH: Paul, this -- or I'm sorry, Andy, this is Josie. I have one update. There is a procedures work group scheduled for November 8th, and then LANL, we were trying to set up a meeting for (indiscernible), and I was asked to hold off on that until after the first of the year. So, that's the

only updates I have at this time.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. I can give a quick update. You know we've been waiting on the one-on-ones for the review of the cases that have been put forward for review. We're waiting for, hopefully, the resolution on the membership as well so that people can participate in these and others can maybe sit in and listen as well. So, that will be coming up hopefully by December. Pretty well have got assignments ready to go. We have a couple of conflicts that have to be resolved for -- by individuals, but we will have that ready to go. So, if everybody's been waiting for that, it's sitting on my computer waiting to press go to get everything going forward on it. So, I haven't forgotten about that, and we really want to get those going again and get us back on a work schedule.

Other comments or other updates? Okay. I guess, we can then move on to December meeting. Rashaun? Can't hear you. I may need to call in again. Can -- can anybody hear me?

MEMBER LOCKEY: I can hear you --

MEMBER BEACH: We can hear you.

MEMBER LOCKEY: -- can't hear Rashaun.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Oh, I can't hear Rashaun either. It's pretty quiet.

DR. ROBERTS: Hi, everybody. Can you hear me?

CHAIR ANDERSON: Are you back? Okay.

DR. ROBERTS: Yeah, --

MEMBER CLAWSON: -- hear you.

DR. ROBERTS: -- I'm sorry. When I went to press the mute button, I pressed the -- the end call. My apologies for that. Yeah, so we're ready to

talk about plans for the December meeting.

PLANS FOR THE DECEMBER 2024 BOARD MEETING

So, this will be a virtual meeting again. And hopefully, you know, by next year, we'll be able to transition back to having these Board meetings in person. So, I'm looking forward to -- to getting back to that, and I know that, you know, some Board Members have expressed, you know, wanting to get back to the face-to-face.

Other than -- I'm trying to pull up a document I had up. So, in terms of the agenda, we have the typical updates that are on the agenda provided by NIOSH, DOE, and DOL, and we have the SEC update, as well. So, I presume, Josie, that you're going to want an item on the document approvals for procedures review, and -- and I'm assuming that we would do another 90-minute session for that?

MEMBER BEACH: I would agree with that unless Kathy has something different.

MS. BEHLING: No. 90 minutes should be fine. I believe we're going to propose eight documents, so I think 90 minutes is -- is adequate.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay.

MEMBER BEACH: Great.

DR. ROBERTS: Great.

MEMBER BEACH: Thank you.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Thanks. And then, Brad, I know there was a plan -- a tentative plan to do an update to the Board on SRS. What kind of time were you looking at for that?

MEMBER CLAWSON: Well, at this time, I would -- we -- we want to propose what has been given to us by NIOSH and SC&A, so I'd say probably 90 minutes, too, would be good for that. Then we can give the proposed -- what the work group had come up with.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. So, you're thinking that there would be NIOSH and SC&A presentations as part of that agenda item?

MEMBER CLAWSON: Well, -- well, we've got a -- we've got a recommendation for it. I just wanted to bring the board up to speed of what we had discussed and why we came to the decision that we did. And so, it'd just be a short little presentation. I would hope that both sides would maybe -- just 20 to 30 minutes, each one of theirs, and then give the work group 30 minutes and the Board time to be able to discuss things.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Okay.

CHAIR ANDERSON: What are the dates again?

DR. ROBERTS: Oh, the dates? So, for the Board meeting, you're asking or were you asking --

CHAIR ANDERSON: Are we going to have it -- are we going to need more than one day?

DR. ROBERTS: I think that we're probably going to have one day, yeah. So, I -- I don't see this going into two days. However, the Board, I need to arrange the annual ethics training, you know, so we would probably have -- I think it was December 4th and 5th were the days. I can't open any of my documents. But I think on the 4th we'd probably do an administrative -- a closed administrative session and do the ethics training, and then the 5th would be the Board meeting.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay.

MEMBER LOCKEY: Rashaun?

DR. ROBERTS: But that -- yes?

MEMBER LOCKEY: Jim Lockey. I wanted to bring up the -- the transparency concerns we had. And I know you sent Paul and me, and I think Henry was copied on it, a letter from O -- O -- OCG, OC -- OGC --

DR. ROBERTS: OGC.

MEMBER LOCKEY: -- Office of General Counsel, and -- and I've read that a number of times and I -- I would -- I personally need some clarifications on it because I have questions about -- not questions, just clarifications that I needed.

And I think -- I personally think that if we have ethics training, this would be a good tie-in -- not necessarily tie-in to ethics, but it -- the memo that was sent out by general counsel should be presented to the Board as a whole and people have a chance to ask questions so they can clarify what's permissible and what's not permissible.

MEMBER ZIEMER: This is Paul. I -- I agree with that. I think it would be good if we could clarify some of those issues with the full Board. Jim and I had talked about it and were -- had some concerns about what can and can't be done outside the Board sessions themselves. And I think doing this in executive session would be a good time to do it. So, if that could be scheduled, Rashaun, I think that would be great.

DR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh. Okay. I will check back with OGC about that. Okay. So, move -- are there any other comments or questions or -- I know that the other agenda -- potential agenda item that was mentioned was the

Lawrence Livermore addendum presentation. So, DCAS, how much time were you wanting for that?

DR. NELSON: Yeah, I think we can easily do it under an hour. But I will talk to Mark, specifically, and if he has to change that, I'll get back to you right away.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. So about an hour?

DR. NELSON: Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Great. Are there any other agenda items that people have in mind?

CHAIR ANDERSON: Rashaun, are we going to have a public session on the 4th?

DR. ROBERTS: Yeah. Yeah, so the -- yes, a public session. That's really a standing piece, --

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah. Okay. That's fine.

DR. ROBERTS: -- so that will be there along with the Board work session will also be on the agenda.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Anything else? Okay. Well, I'm hearing nothing. I will assume we've got all the agenda items, and so I'll turn it back over to you, Andy.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. Any other issues, comments individuals would like to make? We're pretty well done with the agenda.

MEMBER CLAWSON: Andy, this is just Brad. I'm just wondering where we're at on Hanford, Chuck?

DR. NELSON: I was waiting for you to ask that question, Brad. So,

we've got a fair amount of documentation from the site, and it's feeding into a write-up that ORAU's actually, doing right now. And when they get it all together, we're going to review it all and see if we have an adequate coexposure model. So, you know, we're focused on the '84 forward time period with the primes. And a lot of contractors during that period of time, so it's been quite an exercise to get all the radiological documentation and, you know, see what kind of monitoring was done and see if they were doing what was prescribed. So, it's quite an exercise. It's in progress, but we're making some progress. And, you know, DOE came out and said they weren't able to find some of the searches that we needed, but we decided to make that point and get all this documentation together and see if we have enough to where we can go forward. So, we're making progress, Brad.

MEMBER CLAWSON: Okay. I just wanted to -- I'm just -- there's -- it's been quite a while since we got anything, but okay. I appreciate that. Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Other questions, comments?

MS. GOGLIOTTI: Andy, this is Rose. If anyone hasn't received their SRDB training yet and would like it, please reach out to me. I have held two training sessions so far, but I have not trained everyone yet. So if you haven't been trained, please reach out.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Will do.

MEMBER VALERIO: Rashaun, this is --

CHAIR ANDERSON: Any other --

MEMBER VALERIO: This is --

CHAIR ANDERSON: Go ahead.

MEMBER VALERIO: -- Loretta.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Go ahead.

MEMBER VALERIO: Can you hear me?

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yes.

MEMBER VALERIO: Rashaun, after the meeting, if you can give me a quick call, I'd appreciate it.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Will do.

MEMBER VALERIO: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. Anyone want to propose we adjourn?

MEMBER CLAWSON: I'd love to, Andy. This is Brad. I propose that this meeting comes to an end so we can go to bed.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay.

MEMBER ZIEMER: I'll second the first part of that motion.

CHAIR ANDERSON: All righty. That sounds good.

MEMBER CLAWSON: It's 2:30 in the morning here.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Where are you, Brad?

MEMBER CLAWSON: We're just outside Japan.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah, I know you said you were going. I was going to say, you're coming through pretty clear, so.

MEMBER CLAWSON: Well, we worked pretty hard on that, too.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah, I'll bet you did. Yeah. Okay. Well, enjoy yourself and we look forward to --

MEMBER ZIEMER: (Speaks in Japanese.)

CHAIR ANDERSON: -- you in December. So, if there's no objection, --

MEMBER ZIEMER: (Speaks in Japanese), Brad.

CHAIR ANDERSON: -- we'll adjourn.

MEMBER BEACH: Thanks, Paul.

MEMBER CLAWSON: Okay. You guys have a good one. We'll chat at you later. Thanks.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. We're adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. EDT.)