



## ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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July 26, 2005

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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 -00018, 00026, and portions of Petition 00028 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 be accorded to all Department of Energy (DOE), DOE contractor or subcontractors, or AWE employees who worked in uranium enrichment operations or other radiological activities at the Y-12 facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee from March 1943 through December 1947 and whom were employed for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days, occurring either solely 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 four specific factors:

- The Y-12 facility during this time period was one of the earliest sites involved in the production of nuclear weapons and was constructed and operated during a time when radiation control and monitoring methods were still being developed.
- Monitoring data as well as information on sources of radiation exposures and process information are insufficient for adequate individual dose reconstruction for the time period involved. In particular, information needed for dose reconstruction on the calutron operations, an important source of exposure, is incomplete.
- There is inadequate information necessary for individual dose reconstruction on other radiological activities during this time period including the development of beneficial radiological isotopes, development and testing of a neutron monitor, maintenance and use of a large Radium 226 sealed source, and thorium extraction.


The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt

- In its evaluation report, NIOSH has concluded that it is likely that radiation doses for this group of workers at Y-12 Plant during this time period could have endangered the health of members of this class. The Board concurs.

Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our July 5-7, 2005 Board meeting, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the Advisory Board Meeting held July 5 -7, 2005 in St. Louis, Missouri. 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,



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

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