



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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May 19, 2009

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The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 00093 concerning workers at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory – Area IV under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 (c)(1) and 42CFR Sec. 83.13 (c)(3). The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) designation be accorded to all employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), its predecessor agencies, and DOE contractors and subcontractors, who worked in any area of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days from January 1, 1955 through December 31, 1958, 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:

- The Santa Susana – Area IV facility was involved in the development of nuclear reactors and related research.
- NIOSH found that there was insufficient monitoring data or information on radiological operations at these laboratories in order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstruction involving internal and external radiation exposures for Area IV workers during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion.
- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation at this facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

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Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our May 12, 2009, Board meeting, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted. Enclosed is the documentation from the Board meeting where this special exposure cohort class was discussed. The documentation includes transcripts of the deliberations, copies of the petition, the NIOSH review thereof, and related documents distributed by NIOSH. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul L. Ziemer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chair

Enclosure