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May 23, 2007

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-0082 concerning workers at the W. R. Grace facility in Erwin, Tennessee under the statutory requirements established by EEOICPA and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.13 and 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all AWE employ who were monitored or should have been monitored for potential exposure to thorium while working in any of the 100 series buildings or Buildings 220, 230, 233, 234, 301, or 310 at the W.R.Grace site at Erwin, Tennessee for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days during the period from January 1, 1958 through December 31, 1970, or in combination with work days within the parameters established for one or more other classes of employees in the SEC. The Board notes that although NIOSH found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, they believe that they are able to reconstruct components of the internal dose including uranium and plutonium isotopes , external exposures from all radionuclides, and occupational medical doses for this class of workers, and therefore individuals with non-presumptive cancers may be considered for partial dose reconstructions.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- People working at the W. R. Grace site in Ervin, Tennessee were involved in various industrial operations involving uranium, thorium, and plutonium.
- The NIOSH review of the available monitoring data found that no thorium bioassay data was available until the late 1980's and that information was not adequate to determine an appropriate source term for thorium. Therefore, NIOSH concluded that individual dose reconstructions are not feasible for people

working in this facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion.

- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for workers at the W. R. Grace site during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Denver, Colorado where this special exposure cohort class 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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