

Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
149th Meeting
December 8, 2022

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Summary Proceedings

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), Dr. Henry A. Anderson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Henry A. Anderson, Chair
Josie Beach, Member
Victoria Cassano, Member, attended via Zoom
Bradley P. Clawson, Member, attended via Zoom
Arthur Frank, Member
David Kotelchuck, Member
James E. Lockey, Member
David Pompa, Member
Genevieve S. Roessler, Member, attended via Zoom
Loretta R. Valerio, Member, attended via Zoom
Paul L. Ziemer, Member

Non-Members, Registered and/or Public Comment Participants:

Roberts, Rashaun, DFO
Adams, Nancy, NIOSH contractor
Barton, Bob, SC&A
Behling, Kathy, SC&A
Briggs, Nicole, SC&A
Calhoun, Grady, DCAS
Cook, Maddie, DCAS
Gogliotti, Rose, SC&A
Habighurst, Ashton, HHS
Nelson, Chuck, DCAS
Rutherford, LaVon, DCAS
Taulbee, Tim, DCAS

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health at 9:00 am EST on December 8, 2022, A roll call of all ABRWH members confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Attendees declared conflicts of interest during roll call. Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Dr. Anderson, Board Chair.

Program Updates: NIOSH, DOL, and DOE

Grady Calhoun (NIOSH), Chris Crawford (DOL), and Gina Griego-Kelleher (DOE) gave updates of each organization's activities for the EEOICPA Program and responded to questions from Board Members.

Rocky Flats Plant Work Group Update – Dr. Dave Kotelchuck, Chair, Rocky Flats Plant Workgroup

Dr. Kotelchuck began by expressing his remorse at the passing of Board and Rocky Flats Work Group member, Dr. Bill Fields, acknowledging Dr. Fields's contributions to the Board's work, and his pleasant collegiality.

He then summarized the history of the Work Group's deliberations. The Work Group had determined in 2017 that doses at Rocky Flats could be reconstructed for all workers after December 31, 1983, and so the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) class need not be extended beyond that date. Information obtained during the SEC deliberations led to the conclusion that the Rocky Flats site profile required revision. DCAS completed revisions of all chapters of the site profile by January 2021, and SC&A completed the review of the revisions in December 2021. DCAS submitted a response the SC&A review in July 2022, and the Work Group met on October 4 to discuss the status. During that meeting the Work Group determined that all the findings and observations from SC&A's earlier review had been resolved by the latest revision of the site profile, although there were a few essentially typographical errors which should be corrected. DCAS committed to correcting those in a future revision. The Work Group has completed its review of the site profile. During the ensuing Board discussion SC&A noted that they are tracking finding resolutions until such time as the Board Tracking System, or a similar system, is available. The Board Tracking System was disabled by the Cybersecurity Modernization Initiative.

Procedures Review Finalization/Document Approvals – Ms. Kathleen Behling, SC&A

After introductory remarks Ms. Beach called on Ms. Kathy Behling, SC&A to discuss the Subcommittee's completed review of seven documents. Before beginning, Ms. Behling commented on the size of the Procedures Review Subcommittee's task noting that the program has prepared 174 guidance documents in all. She then described the Subcommittee's completed review of the following documents.

- ORAUT-OTIB-0014, rev. 00, "Technical Information Bulletin – Assignment of Environmental Internal Doses for Employees Not Exposed to Airborne Radionuclides in the Workplace"
- ORAUT-PROC-0002, rev. 00, "Use of Integrated Modules for Bioassay Analysis (IMBA)"
- ORAUT-PROC-0077, rev. 00, "Dose Reconstruction Error Tracking and Reporting"
- OCAS-PER-003, rev. 0, "Evaluation of the Effect of Adding Ingestion Intakes to Bethlehem Steel Cases"
- OCAS-PER-025, rev. 0, "Huntington Pilot Plant TBD Revision"
- DCAS-PER-033, rev. 0, "Reduction Pilot Plant TBD Revision"
- DCAS-PER-038, rev. 0, "Hooker Electrochemical TBD Revisions"

After Ms. Behling presented the Subcommittee's work on each document, the Board voted to close the reviews of all seven documents.

SEC Petition Status Update & SEC Qualification Process – Mr. Chuck Nelson, DCAS

Mr. Nelson reported DCAS has not received any new petitions since the Board's last meeting. DCAS is continuing to prepare an addendum to the evaluation report for petition SEC-0221 for Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) for the years 1990 to 1995. A DCAS/ORAU team conducted an onsite data capture in September 2022 and is currently waiting for LLNL to complete a classification review of the documents selected for capture. DCAS and SC&A are continuing work on SEC petitions from Hanford, Savannah River, Los Alamos National Lab, Idaho National Lab, Argonne National Lab-West, Area IV Santa Susanna, Metals & Controls, DeSoto Avenue Facility, the Y-12 Plant, and the Pinellas Plant. DCAS continues to evaluate records for West Valley Demonstration Project to decide if an 83.14 petition is warranted for the years 1966-1968.

Board Work Session

Dr. Anderson began the work session by asking the newly seated members of the Board who were present, Dr. Arthur Frank, Mr. David Pompa, and Dr. Victoria Cassano, to introduce themselves. Each of them briefly described their background and work history. Dr. Anderson noted that, due to some recent Board vacancies, CDC is once again recruiting new members for the Board and has received several applications.

Next, Subcommittee and Work Group chairpersons reported on progress and planned activities. Following that, Dr. Roberts described public comments and responses from the August Board meeting, then summarized the Board's upcoming meeting schedule. The Board's meetings for 2023 are a telephone meeting February 15, and in-person meeting April 19 and 20, a telephone meeting Jun 14, and an in-person meeting August 16 and 17, a telephone meeting October 12, and an in-person meeting December 6 and 7. The Board will wait until closer to the meeting date to decide on a location for the April meeting.

Concluding the work session, Dr. Anderson read tribute letters to Board members Dr. Bill Field and Dr. David Richardson. Dr. Field died on November 4, and Dr. Richardson resigned from the Board in November.

Update on Review of SEC-0256 Pinellas Plant, Pinellas Plant Evaluation Report – Dr. Steve Ostrow, SC&A

Dr. Ostrow provided a progress report for SC&A's review of DCAS's Evaluation Report for SEC Petition SEC-0256, Pinellas Plant. SEC 0256 seeks an SEC class for Pinellas workers from August 1, 1957, through December 31, 1997. SC&A's progress on their review of the Evaluation Report has been helped recently by being able to submit key word searches to DCAS and its contractor ORAU. ORAU has been implementing those searches on project documents in their system. The Cybersecurity Modernization Initiative disabled SC&A's and DCAS's ability to search documents in DCAS's system. All documents that have been captured by the program are in ORAU's system.

Dr. Ostrow briefly described the Pinellas site and its operations, as well as the history of the Work Group's activities. The Pinellas Work Group and SC&A reviewed the original Pinellas site profile in 2006. Subsequently, DCAS worked with the Working Group and SC&A to revise the site profile to resolve the findings from SC&A's review. As a result of this process the Work Group concluded in 2016 that the revised site profile resolved all the findings from SC&A's review. After that, DCAS received Petition 0256 and qualified it only for the dates August 1, 1957, through December 31, 1990. DCAS completed its Evaluation Report for Petition 0256 in December 2021, concluding that dose reconstruction is feasible, so no SEC is warranted. SC&A is currently reviewing the Evaluation Report and its conclusion.

Dr. Ostrow then described in some detail the types of radiation sources that existed at Pinellas and described the characteristics of those sources and described the site's radiation monitoring practices. He also listed the petitioner's concerns, as they were raised in the petition. Finally, he summarized SC&A's path forward to complete their review and responded to Board members' questions.

Public Comment

Members of the public provided comments related to the Pinellas Plant SEC Petition, the difficulty with getting access to relevant documents, their work experiences Pinellas and some of the medical conditions

they are suffering from. Dr. Roberts read written comments from a member of the public related to thoriated magnesium alloys being used at Rocky Flats.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm EST.