

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)

158th Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2024

Summary Proceedings

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health meeting convened via teleconference at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Dr. Henry A. Anderson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Henry A. Anderson, Chair
Josie Beach, Member
Bradley P. Clawson, Member
Arthur Frank, Member
David Kotelchuck, Member
James E. Lockey, Member
Nicole Martinez, Member
David Pompa, Member
Gen Roessler, Member
Loretta Valerio, Member

Non-Members, Registered and/or Public Comment Participants

Rashaun Roberts, DFO
Nancy Adams, NIOSH Contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Ron Buchanan, SC&A
Zaida Burgos, NIOSH Contractor
Grady Calhoun, DCAS
John, Cardarelli, DCAS
Denise DeGarmo, Claimant representative/Public
Rose Gogliotti, SC&A
Maliah Holsburger, HHS
Amy Mangel, SC&A
Lori Marion-Moss, DCAS
Chuck Nelson, DCAS

Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Michael Rafkey, HHS
LaVon Rutherford, DCAS
Tim Taulbee, DCAS

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health at 11:00 am EDT on June 26, 2024, via teleconference. A roll call of all ABRWH members confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Dr. Anderson, Board Chair, who moved on to the first agenda item.

Update on Cybersecurity Modernization Initiative – Grady Calhoun, DCAS

Mr. Calhoun reported that the Site Research Database and the Board Review System are now available through Cyber Ark. He expects the next application, the SEC Viewer, to be available by the end of the year. Access to these applications can be a bit problematic, but he believes everyone, or almost everyone, who needs access has been granted access. Anyone who needs assistance gaining access should contact DCAS. Work is continuing on NOCTS, first by DCAS, then some work will be required by ORAU Team. There is not yet an estimated availability date for NOCTS.

Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition Status Update – Chuck Nelson, DCAS

Mr. Nelson reported that DCAS will not present any new SEC Petition Evaluation Reports at the August Board meeting. Work Group chairs will report activity on petitions that are with the Board, if a report is warranted.

Metals and Controls Corp. SEC Petition 00236 Update

Dr. Anderson thanked Board members for reviewing the draft of the Board's letter to the Secretary recommending adding an SEC Class for Metals & Controls. He then read the final Board letter into the record. The Board's letter recommends adding an SEC class for all Atomic Weapons Employees who worked at least 250 workdays at Metals and Controls from January 1, 1968, through September 21, 1995.

Updates from Work Groups and Subcommittees

Dr. Anderson reported that member Gen Roessler is retiring from the Board. She is the Chairperson of some work groups and a member of others. Dr. Anderson and Dr. Roberts will work to identify replacements for Dr. Roessler on those work groups. Until such time as replacement chairpersons are identified, Dr. Anderson will serve as the chair of work groups that Dr. Roessler chaired previously. Selected Work Group and Subcommittee Chairs reported progress and plans for their respective groups. Meetings have been scheduled in July for the Savannah River, Pinellas, and Idaho National Lab Work Groups and for the Subcommittee for Procedures Reviews.

Plans for the August 2024 Board Meeting – Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

The Board plans to meet in person in Idaho Falls, Idaho on August 7 and 8, although some members plan to participate remotely. The agenda will include the usual updates from DCAS, DOE, and DOL on program activities and the SEC Petition status update. In addition, there will be updates from the Idaho National Lab and Pinellas Work Groups, as well as from the Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews and the Subcommittee for Procedures Reviews. There will also be a Board working session, which may include updates from other work groups, and a public comment session.

Dr. Lockey asked that HHS Office of General Counsel provide a presentation of Board transparency, specifically addressing allowed communications between Board members, or between Board members and other parties like DCAS, SC&A, and claimant advocates, outside of Board, Subcommittee, or Work Group meetings. If Board members have other suggested agenda items, they will send them to Dr. Roberts.

Board Correspondence

Dr. Anderson read a letter of appreciation for Dr. Roessler, who is retired from the Board, and Dr. Roberts read a letter of appreciation from NIOSH Director Dr. John Howard. Board members and DCAS staff added their comments about how much they enjoyed working with Gen and how they will miss her.

Meeting Adjourned

Following a motion, Dr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 12:01 pm. EDT.