

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH
MEETING #156

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

The meeting convened at 11:12 a.m. EST
via teleconference,
Dr. Henry Anderson, Chair, presiding.

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Members Present:

Anderson, Henry, Chair
Beach, Josie, Member
Clawson, Brad, Member
Frank, Arthur, Member
Kotelchuck, David, Member
Lockey, James, Member
Martinez, Nicole, Member
Roessler, Genevieve, Member
Valerio, Loretta, Member
Ziemer, Paul, Member

Registered and/or Public Comment Participants:

Roberts, Rashaun, DFO
Adams, Nancy, NIOSH contractor
Barton, Bob, SC&A
Behling, Kathy, SC&A
Buchanan, Ron, SC&A
Calhoun, Grady, DCAS
DeGarmo, Denise, Petitioner representative
Fitzgerald, Joseph, SC&A
Gogliotti, Rose, SC&A
Lorenzen, William, Member of the public
Nelson, Chuck, DCAS
Ostrow, Steve, SC&A
Rafke, Michael, HHS

Rutherford, LaVon, DCAS

Taulbee, Tim, DCAS

Registered and/or Public Comment Participants Continued:

Unknown, Member of the public

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PROCEEDINGS

(11:12 a.m.)

Welcome and Roll Call

DR. ROBERTS: Well, we're a little after 11:00 a.m. Eastern, so I will go ahead and open up the meeting. I am Rashaun Roberts, and I'm the designated federal official for the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health. And I'd like to welcome you all to this teleconference. The agenda for today's meeting is posted on the NIOSH website. You can find it under schedule of meetings under the February 2024 tab. As you know, the meeting is being conducted by telephone only. In order to keep the meeting going without interruption, I asked each of you to mute your phone unless you need to speak. If you don't have a mute button, press star six to mute. If you need to take yourself off mute, press star six again.

Also, because we will be unable to see each other for this meeting, please identify yourself before your comments questions. So, with that, I'd like to formally open the meeting. The primary purpose of today is to prepare for the full-Board meeting in April, although there are other items, mainly updates, on today's agenda -- agenda. Because of -- this is primarily an administrative meeting, we don't need to cover conflict of interest. So, with that said, let me move into the roll call, starting with the Board Members, in alphabetical order. And, again, please check your phone and make sure you're on mute, so that we have minimal interference. I can hear someone off mute now. Okay. Anderson?

CHAIR ANDERSON: Present.

DR. ROBERTS: Beach?

MEMBER BEACH: I'm here.

DR. ROBERTS: Clawson? Brad, I heard you earlier. You still there?

MEMBER CLAWSON: Yes.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Frank?

MEMBER FRANK: Here.

DR. ROBERTS: Kottelchuck? Kottelchuck? Lockey?

MEMBER LOCKEY: I'm here.

DR. ROBERTS: Martinez?

MEMBER MARTINEZ: I'm here.

DR. ROBERTS: Pompa? Roessler?

MEMBER ROESSLER: Here.

DR. ROBERTS: Valerio? Loretta, I heard you earlier. You still there?

MEMBER VALERIO: Yes, ma'am.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Ziemer?

MEMBER ZIEMER: I'm here.

DR. ROBERTS: And let's see Kottelchuck, are you there? Pompa? All right.

We do have a quorum, so I'm just going to go ahead and ask for attendance for DCAS/ORAU.

MR. CALHOUN: This is Grady Calhoun.

DR. TAULBEE: This is Tim Taulbee.

MR. RUTHERFORD: This is Lavon Rutherford.

MR. NELSON: This is Chuck Nelson.

DR. ROBERTS: Anyone else for DCAS/ORAU? Okay. Let's move on to

SC&A.

MR. BARTON: Bob Barton, SC&A.

MS. BEHLING: Kathy Behling.

DR. BUCHANAN: Ron Buchanan, SC&A.

MR. FITZGERALD: Joe Fitzgerald.

MS. GOGLIOTTI: Rose Gogliotti.

DR. OSTROW: Steve Ostrow.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Anyone else for SC&A? Okay. How about HHS and contractors?

MR. RAFKEY: Michael Rafkey, HHS.

MS. ADAMS: Nancy Adams, NIOSH contractor.

DR. ROBERTS: How about anyone from the departments, DOL, DOE, other departments? And we don't have a public comment period today, but if there were any members of the public who want to register their attendance, you can do so now.

MS. DEGARMO: Denise DeGarmo, --

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Rashaun, --

MS. DEGARMO: -- Pinellas.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. I heard --

MEMBER KOTELCHUCK: (Indiscernible.)

DR. ROBERTS: Yes?

MEMBER KOTELCHUCK: Dave Kottelchuck. I got cut off the line. I'm back in now.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Welcome, Dave, (indiscernible). Okay. So, I heard Dr. DeGarmo. Are there any other members of the public who would

like to register attendance?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you, and welcome.

MR. LORENZEN: William Lorenzen (ph).

DR. ROBERTS: Welcome. Anybody else? Okay. And I will briefly circle back and see Pompa has joined.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. I --

MEMBER BEACH: He said he was going to be on travel and may not be able to be on.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. All right. Thank you.

MEMBER BEACH: Yep.

DR. ROBERTS: Yeah. Yeah. Actually, I do. Thanks for the reminder. Okay. So, let's go ahead and move into the agenda. Again, please, periodically check your phone to ensure that you are on mute. If you don't have a mute button, press star six to mute. If you need to take yourself off, press star six again.

And with that, with those no further ado, I'd like to turn the floor over to Dr. Henry Anderson, who's the board chair, to lead us through the rest of the agenda. Andy.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Thank you very much, and welcome to meeting 156 and a happy Valentine's Day to everyone. I think when we scheduled this, I'm not sure we knew it was Valentine's Day, but everybody was available, so here we are. So, with that, I'd like to move into a -- we have a short agenda, other than the planning part, for April 24th.

CYBERSECURITY MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE UPDATE

CHAIR ANDERSON: With Grady, if you want to give us cybersecurity modernization initiative update?

MR. CALHOUN: Sure, thing. Actually, I have a few updates. First of all, I don't know if I mentioned it last time, but you know that Dave Sundin left us and retired, well deserved retirement. And LaVon Rutherford, a/k/a Bomber, is our new deputy director, so congratulations to Bomber (indiscernible).

On to the -- the IT update. We have some -- some good news, I believe. I've told you in the past that we were trying to -- first item on our priority list was the SRDB site research database. And we were struggling a little bit to think of options to access that, but we have recently stepped up and tested an option that works, and so we can access it on ORAU's side by our own government issued laptop. So, everybody who's got a government issued laptop and a PIV card can access this database shortly. We ran a test to make sure, and Bob Barton and Rose Gogliotti got in and reported that it -- it -- it worked well. I know that it's going to be a little more difficult to get into that system than it was in the past, but once you're in, it's, basically, the same and maybe even better search functionality than it was in the past. So, we're excited about that.

Next steps are we've got about 60 people to get hooked up now, so we needed to buy additional licenses to allow that. Yes, we're getting attached - - attached through a -- an application called Cyber Ark, so we needed to get some additional licenses, we -- we're gonna be buying those licenses, and

once we get those licenses, it should be about two weeks after that.

And what will happen is, ultimately, we'll have to set up meetings with each of you individually to set up your accounts and -- and run you through getting linked up to that. So, that'll be a one-time thing, though, once your accounts are set up. Then, as we add additional applications to be available, you'll be able to access them the same way.

The next on our list is going to be the -- the Board review system, which we all miss, and that's to be done by the end of March. So, that'll be accessed the same way. And then after that, it's going to be SEC viewer. I don't have a date for that. And then, ultimately, NOCTS. So, it's been a long road. It's still a long road, but we are making progress. So, thanks to everybody involved in helping us get to that -- this point.

Anybody -- I got one more thing, but anybody else got any questions on the -- on the IT modernization?

(Whereupon, multiple members speak simultaneously.)

MEMBER BEACH: Go ahead, Brad.

MEMBER CLAWSON: Well, I was just going to wonder, how are you going to set up the appointments to be able to get with us over so that we can --

MR. CALHOUN: I think -- I think it's probably best to come up with -- I kind of default to Rose to set up your scheduling, but I'll -- I'll default to whoever you guys would like me to, and then --

MEMBER CLAWSON: Well, that --

MR. CALHOUN: -- we'll -- we'll make those appointments and, ultimately, someone from ORAU will have to contact you to make sure that

your things are set up. So, if you'd like Rose to do that or anybody, just let me know and I'll make sure that they're -- they're the point of contact.

MEMBER CLAWSON: No, that -- that's good. If you're gonna do it through Rose, that'll be fine. I was just trying to understand so that we're available and everything else like that. But if Rose is gonna do it, I know that it'll -- it'll be done like that. That'll be fine. That's what I need to know. Thanks.

MEMBER BEACH: Yeah, and Grady, this is Josie. That was just gonna be my question, also. And if Ray -- if Rose raises her hand, she's terrific at training us, so.

MR. CALHOUN: Well, she didn't -- she didn't raise her hand. I just kind of defaulted to that. So, we'll ask (indiscernible). We'll see if she agrees. So --

MS. GOGLIOTTI: I'd be happy to.

MEMBER BEACH: Okay. Terrific. Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSON: A special Valentine for Rose.

MR. CALHOUN: Okay. The next thing I just want to briefly brief everybody on, is -- (indiscernible). And this is really just for everybody's information. It's, like, through this entire operation that many of us have been on for the last 20 years, we've been thought of that organization that has unlimited money, and we can do whatever they want.

Well, the truth of the matter is that we've never had an increase in funding ever -- ever. And so, we've been able to always do what we wanted to do, but, as you know, the cost of everything has been increasing. And this year we, actually, have to look past to look at -- at cutting costs and

wherever we can do some savings. And, you know, this is outside of the control of both Rashaun and I.

And so, we -- you know, we -- we've got the word out, but this may, literally, involve an act of Congress to -- to add more money to our funding. And the funding I'm referring to effects DCAS, you know, my division, the Advisory Board, SC&A, and a couple of the little support contractors and as well as ORAU, the big support contractor that work on this program.

I assure you that this is not going to result in any delays in processing dose reconstruction or SEC petition evaluations, but there's just other things that we all probably need take a look at. You know, we're looking at some of the travel. We're looking at, essentially, not refilling -- backfilling positions that are vacated. So, I just wanted to throw that out there just so people are aware of it.

I know Rashaun and I have both discussed this. And it's -- it's kind of a bummer, because we used to be able to live on what we call rollover money year after year. But I'm sure, as everyone realizes, all of our expenses, our personal and professional, have increased over the last 20 years. So, I don't foresee any big issues. It's just that some things that are lower priority are going to take longer to get to.

So, I just wanted to let you all know that, and let you know, that I have raised that issue in the organization and to see what can be done about it. Any questions on that? That's the end of my thoughts.

All right Dr. Anderson whoever's next on the agenda.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay, thank you. Next up is Chuck Nelson, special exposure cohort status updates.

MR. NELSON: Thank you, Dr. Anderson.

SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT (SEC) STATUS UPDATE

MR. NELSON: Hello everyone. For the April 24 Advisory Board meeting, we will not be presenting any new SEC petitions. I will say, last Tuesday we received a new petition, It was from Missouri University research reactor. The acronym is MIR. It's not like a DOE covered facility -- facility, but we're going to submit the information provided by the petitioner to DOE/DOL so they can make a determination of whether this can be added as an EEOICPA-covered facility.

Also, a little update on a couple petitions we've gotten in the past. One was SEC-261. You may recall an interesting one. It was a B52 plane crash site and associated cleanup of radioactive material at an Air Force Base in a -- near an Air Force base in Greenland. It was back in 1968, but we, again, submitted that to both DOE and DOL to determine if it was an EEOICPA covered facility, and they both concluded that it was not. So, we, in fact, closed that petition.

We have another petition that's currently under qualification review. That's SEC-263 Weldon Spring Plant. And it's during the remediation period, and we've been working with the petitioner to resolve any deficiencies. Had a couple of different consult calls, and I think he's gotten most of his information in, so we'll be doing a qualification review on that one here pretty soon.

Other than that, I'm expecting work group chairs will provide their updates today, as needed, on any current ongoing SEC petitions with the

Advisory Board. And that's all I had, Dr. Anderson. Any questions?

CHAIR ANDERSON: Any questions anyone? Okay.

WORK GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

CHAIR ANDERSON: Let's move on then to updates from work groups and subcommittees. I know right after this meeting, we have one workgroup meeting that's...

(Whereupon, several members speak simultaneously.)

MEMBER BEACH: Oh, Paul. Go ahead, Paul.

MEMBER ZIEMER: Oh, yeah. Well, yeah, it's Paul Ziemer. Yeah, We have the Joslyn work group meeting this afternoon, in fact. So, that's part of TBD-6000.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah.

MEMBER ZIEMER: It's really the TBD-6000 work group of which Jocelyn is a part, so we should put it that way.

MEMBER BEACH: Yeah, and this is --

CHAIR ANDERSON: Josie, you had something?

MEMBER BEACH: Yeah, I do have a procedures meeting coming up in March on the 14th, so we'll -- that's scheduled. And then the M&C, I just wanted to -- I'm sure everybody knows, but remind everybody that the background materials for Metals and Controls went out on February 9th, so last Friday, for Board review for the pending action coming up in -- at the April meeting. So, hopefully everybody's got those. And if you don't, let -- let Rashaun know. And so, you have a chance to review all that information ahead of time. And that's all I have. LANL is still -- we're still waiting for

some documents to come out before we can schedule that meeting.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. Others?

MEMBER CLAWSON: This is Brad. Can I go?

CHAIR ANDERSON: Sure, go ahead.

MEMBER CLAWSON: Okay. So, as far as what I've got, Argonne East, I have not heard anything that has changed in the last year, year-and-a-half or so. So, that'll bring us (audio drop) the last time that I talked, Chuck, you were saying that you were doing an evaluation of the coexposure model. Kind of wondering where we're at on that.

MR. NELSON: You were kind of breaking up, Brad, but, I believe, you're asking about Hanford coexposure model; is that correct?

MEMBER CLAWSON: Yes. That is correct.

MR. NELSON: Okay. Yeah. We were -- what we're doing right now, we're working with the site. We're trying to get some information on the '84 to '86 time frame, the RADComm program and our internal dosimetry program. So, we have a data request into them. We're waiting for a response on that. Making some effort. This is one of our top priorities, so it's not like it's on the back burn -- burner. There's, actually, a lot of people working on it. And like I say, we're making progress, but we're -- it's still some time out yet.

MEMBER CLAWSON: Okay. Keep us in the loop on that. On that --

MR. NELSON: Yes, sir, I will.

MEMBER CLAWSON: That'll bring us to Savannah River. We got an evaluation report from SC&A on the evaluation of feasibility. So, we're going to be setting up a work group meeting to be able to set up the cutoff time

for Savannah River.

That brings us down to Pinellas. We've been getting an awful lot of data on that. We're trying to set up a -- kind of, a technical call to be able to go over a lot of the information that Dr. DeGarmo has provided us with and discuss paths forward for that. And that's about it.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Anyone else?

MEMBER KOTELCHUCK: Andy?

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah.

MEMBER KOTELCHUCK: Dave. The --

CHAIR ANDERSON: Go ahead, Dave.

MEMBER KOTELCHUCK: Okay, great. The subcommittee on dose reconstruction reviews, we do not have a meeting set up. We're waiting for material from NIOSH, and as soon as we get it, then we'll -- hopefully soon, we'll schedule the meeting.

But for the dose reconstruction reviews methods working group, we have a meeting scheduled on March 11. We have two new members, so it is -- we will both introduce them and update folks on the -- the working group -- on the methods working group. And we'll be looking to, you know, both reestablish the -- the working group as a functioning body, if you will and, also, exploring some options for perhaps making some improvements in the dose reconstruction process. So, we're, at least, rolling on that. Okay. That's it.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Thank you. Other updates?

I would just ask, Rashaun had recently sent out an updated list of the membership of the various work groups and subcommittee rosters, so

please look that over. I'm not sure if any of these are closed or not, but it's quite a list, and look to see that you're aware of the committee you're on, and if you think you were on a committee and you don't see your name, let Rashaun know, and we'll see what the issue is and if you got left off by mistake. So, please review that and that, and that -- I think it's updated as of April 19th and includes the new members and other changes we needed to make. Any questions?

Rashaun, you want to say anything about that?

DR. ROBERTS: No, I think you captured it. Really the only change was the removal of the Dr. Cassano from those -- the working groups, but it is, basically, the same as it was before.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah. Any other? If there's no other updates, Rashaun, we want to talk about the April meeting?

DR. ROBERTS: Yes, before we get to that, there was a request to see if we -- if it would be possible for us to reschedule the Board meeting that's currently, set for August 6 and 7th. You know, if it is possible to move that to later in the month. Let me see if I can pull up the calendar just so that I have it in front of me.

MEMBER BEACH: You know, Rashaun -- Rashaun?

DR. ROBERTS: Yes.

MEMBER BEACH: I -- I'm mistaken. I -- I was a year ahead, so the August '24 is actually okay. It's -- it's 2025 that I was gonna have to (audio drop) and we're not out that far.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. So, --

MEMBER BEACH: -- we don't --

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. So, we don't need to revisit that, okay. Well, then since that's resolved, let's go --

MEMBER BEACH: (Indiscernible.)

DR. ROBERTS: -- ahead and talk about the plan for the -- the April 2024 Board meeting, which will happen in just a couple of months here.

PLANS FOR APRIL 2024 BOARD MEETING

DR. ROBERTS: So, I just wanted to see, you know -- see what we need to put together agenda item items. So, we will, obviously, have the typical agenda items, like the program update, the DOL update, the DOE update, and the SEC petitions status update on the agenda. We -- since we're having some meetings in March, I -- specifically, the dose reconstruction review methods work group will be meeting next month. I was wondering if we could tentatively, Dave, put a space -- a placeholder on the agenda for that, for the group to provide an update for the entire Board. If that is okay with you, and if so, I was --

MEMBER KOTELCHUCK: Sure, sure. We can do it. I don't know that it'll be an extensive report, but I will be very glad to report on --

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Would carving out about 30 minutes be sufficient or -- or do you think it might be more like an hour? And again, we can tweak this --

MEMBER KOTELCHUCK: Oh. Oh, I --

DR. ROBERTS: -- after we have the meeting.

MEMBER KOTELCHUCK: Oh, I would say a half an hour is more than plenty. Truth is, 15 or 20 minutes would be fine. But, but half an hour, if

you wish. It may be a little shorter than that.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay.

MEMBER LOCKEY: No more than a half an hour though.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Sounds good.

And then, Josie, we're having an SPR meeting coming up. I'm assuming that we'll want to do some document approvals. And what have we typically done, allocated about 90 minutes?

MEMBER BEACH: Yeah, I would say that's probably correct.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Okay. Great.

And Paul, we are having the work group meeting for TBD-6000 today, which you mentioned. Can we put an update on the agenda for that and maybe --

MEMBER ZIEMER: Yes, that would --

DR. ROBERTS: -- (indiscernible) --

MEMBER ZIEMER: That would be appropriate. I don't -- I don't think it will need to be any more than 30 minutes.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay, great.

All right. And then, Josie, you mentioned the item for M&C. And, you know, that's a possible voting situation there. How long did you want to allocate for that?

MEMBER BEACH: Well, I would almost think an hour to an hour and a half for that, as well.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay.

MEMBER BEACH: It's hard to say just how many questions and comments will come up.

DR. ROBERTS: Right. And we do have to make time for the petitioner, as well --

MEMBER BEACH: Which we have.

DR. ROBERTS: -- (indiscernible) so.

MEMBER BEACH: Yeah, I was thinking that would be in that time frame.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. So about 90? Yeah, let's do 90. Okay. And, again, we can always, you know, work with that.

So, those are the main agenda items. We'll, of course, have the board work session in there for an hour and the public comment session will be for an hour, as well. Are there any other agenda items that we need to add? Well, hearing none, thank you for that. And, you know, I can go ahead and set time and things to the agenda, so that I can prepare the federal register notice package but thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Rashaun, are we going to have just one day?

DR. ROBERTS: You know, I'm not sure. I suspect it will just be one day, but I'll have to do the numbers.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. Because I think we're holding the 17th and the 18th, right?

DR. ROBERTS: Yeah, so it's conceivable that it would just be one day, and it's a virtual meeting.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Yeah.

DR. ROBERTS: Okay. Well, Andy that's all I have for the -- for that piece.

CHAIR ANDERSON: And, I think, Loretta wanted to make an

announcement.

MEMBER VALERIO: Hi, good morning. Can everyone hear me?

CHAIR ANDERSON: We can.

MEMBER VALERIO: Okay.

(Whereupon, a conversation ensued off the record.)

CHAIR ANDERSON: Any other comments people have, or?

ADJOURN

CHAIR ANDERSON: If not, I'll ask for a motion to adjourn.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So moved.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Second.

CHAIR ANDERSON: Okay. So, all are in favor -- anyone opposed, speak up. Hearing no opposition, we will adjourn. And for those on the upcoming 6000 call and Joslyn, we've got two hours, I guess, until that, noon central time or one o'clock Eastern time. So, thanks a lot, and enjoy the rest of your Valentine's Day.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m. EST.)