



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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October 11, 2006

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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-00061 concerning workers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory 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 a Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) be accorded to all employees of the DOE predecessor agencies, and their contractors or subcontractors, who were monitored or should have been monitored for exposure to ionizing radiation associated with radioactive lanthanum (RaLa) operations at Technical Area 10 (Bayo Canyon Site), Technical Area 35 ("Ten Site"), and Buildings H, Sigma, and U (located within Technical Area 1) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days during the period from September 1, 1944 through July 18, 1963, 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:

- People working in these areas of the Los Alamos National Laboratory were associated with radioactive lanthanum (RaLa) operations as part of the early development and testing of nuclear weapons. In reviewing the available monitoring data for these operations, NIOSH found that it did not have access to sufficient information, including internal personnel dosimetry, workplace monitoring data, or sufficient process and radiological source information, that would allow it to estimate with sufficient accuracy the potential internal radioactive lanthanum doses to which members of the proposed class may have been exposed. The Board concurs with this determination.

- NIOSH determined that health was endangered for the workers exposed to radiation in these areas of the Los Alamos National Laboratory within the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.
- The NIOSH review of the data was found that it was sufficient to support accurate individual dose reconstruction for external doses and occupational medical doses for workers in the areas in question at the LANL. The Board concurs with this determination
- In their evaluation, NIOSH determined that it was difficult to identify people who worked in these areas of LANL based on job classifications. Therefore, the Board recommends that determination of eligibility for this class take into account this difficulty and in the absence of work history or other information to the contrary, workers at the LANL facility during the time period in question should be presumed to have worked in the areas in question.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada where this special exposure cohort was discussed. If any of these items are unavailable at this time, they will follow shortly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul L. Ziemer".

Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Chairman

Enc.