



ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

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September 23, 2008

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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, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (The Board) has evaluated Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition 00124 concerning workers at the Connecticut Aircraft Nuclear Engine Laboratory, Middletown, CT, under the statutory requirements established by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and incorporated into 42 CFR Sec. 83.14. The Board respectfully recommends Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) status be accorded to all employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), its predecessor agencies, and DOE contractors or subcontractors who worked at the Connecticut Aircraft Nuclear Engine Laboratory in Middletown, CT, from January 1, 1958 through December 31, 1965, for a number of work days aggregating at least 250 work days, occurring either solely under this employment 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 the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found that they were unable to completely reconstruct radiation doses for these employees, they believe that they are able to reconstruct the occupational medical dose during the time period in question.

This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- The CANEL facility was involved in the development of a nuclear reactor for propelling aircraft and on a number of other research and development projects for DOE and its predecessor agencies
- NIOSH found very little internal personnel monitoring data and no external personnel monitoring data for CANEL workers for the time period in question.
- NIOSH was unable to locate sufficient information on radiological operations or other workplace monitoring data in order to be able to complete accurate individual dose reconstructions for internal or external exposures at the CANEL facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this conclusion.

- NIOSH determined that health may have been endangered for the workers exposed to radiation at the CANEL facility during the time period in question. The Board concurs with this determination.

In its evaluation report, NIOSH has concluded that it is likely that radiation doses for this group of workers at Connecticut Aircraft Nuclear Engine Laboratory during this time period could have endangered the health of the members of this class. The Board concurs. The Board also notes that NIOSH is able to reconstruct doses from medical x-rays by means of existing project technical documents.

Based on these considerations, and on the discussions and deliberations at our September 2, 2008 Board meeting, the Board recommends that this Special Exposure Cohort petition be granted.

Enclosed is supporting documentation from the recent Advisory Board Meeting held in Redondo Beach, California, where this Special Exposure Cohort class was discussed. The documentation includes transcripts of the deliberations, copies of the petition, and the NIOSH review thereof, and related documents distributed by NIOSH. 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.
Chair

Enclosure