

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
157th Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Summary Proceedings

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health meeting convened via Zoom and telephone at 9:15 Eastern Standard Time (EDT), Dr. Henry A. Anderson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Henry Anderson, Chair
Josie Beach, Member
Bradley Clawson, Member
David Kotelchuck, Member
James Lockey, Member
Nicole Martinez, Member
David Pompa, Member
Gen Roessler, Member
Loretta Valerio, Member
Paul L. Ziemer, Member

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

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Official
Nancy Adams, NIOSH contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Ron Buchanan
Grady Calhoun, DCAS
Denise DeGarmo, Petitioner representative
Michael Elliott, Petitioner representative
Rose Gogliotti, SC&A
Donna Hand, Petitioner representative
Daryl Handlin, Member of public
Maliah Holsberger, HHS

Regina Kelleher-Griego, DOE
Alec Kranbuhl, DCAS
Amy Mangel, SC&A
Lori Marion-Moss, DCAS
Chuck Nelson, DCAS
Joshua Novack, DOL
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Michael Rafky, HHS
LaVon Rutherford, DCAS
Muty Sharfi, ORAU Team
Matthew Smit, ORAU Team
Tim Taulbee, DCAS
Brant Ulish, NIOSH

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health via Zoom and telephone at 9:15 am EST on April 17, 2024. A roll call of all ABRWH members confirmed that a quorum was present. Board members and staff announced conflicts of interest during roll call. 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.

Program Updates: NIOSH, DOL, DOE

Grady Calhoun (NIOSH), Josh Novack (DOL), and Gina Kelleher-Griego (DOE) gave updates of each organization's activities for the EEOICPA Program and responded to questions from Board Members. Mr. Calhoun reported that Board members and SC&A staff now have access to the Site Research Database through an application called Cyber Ark. They soon will also have access to the Site Research Database, and later to the SEC Viewer, through that same application. DCAS Deputy Director and Program Analyst have retired. LaVon Rutherford has been selected as Deputy Director, and a candidate has tentatively accepted the position of Program Analyst. Current hiring plans are for a Health Physics Supervisor to replace LaVon, a replacement for the Management Analyst who retires July 31, this year, and an understudy for Grady, who retires January 2025.

Dose Reconstruction Review Methods (DRRM) Work Group Update– Dr. David Kotelchuck, Workgroup Chair

Dr. Kotelchuck summarized the history of the workgroup and reported on its March 11, 2024, meeting. At that meeting the Work Group evaluated the results of the 49 blind dose reconstruction reviews that had been performed for the Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Reviews up to that time. In a blind dose reconstruction review, SC&A has access to a case's information and DCAS dose reconstruction tools but does not have access to the dose reconstruction that DCAS completed. This differs from a standard dose reconstruction review, where SC&A reviews a dose reconstruction that had been completed by DCAS. Dr. Kotelchuck provided statistical breakdowns of the blind reviews showing the number of DOE employment sites represented, the number of years of employment for the cases, and the gender of the Energy Employees whose dose reconstructions were reviewed. He also presented information comparing the differences in POC values between the DCAS dose reconstruction and the SC&A blind review. That comparison showed that there were very small differences in POC values, providing confidence that dose reconstructions are being done consistently. Going forward the Subcommittees for Dose Reconstruction Review and for Procedures Review will work collaboratively to evaluate dose reconstructions performed according to a site template as opposed to a site profile. Those reviews will pay special attention to reviewing technical judgements made by individual dose reconstructors.

Procedures Review Finalization/Document Approvals – Ms. Josie Beach, Subcommittee Chair and Ms. Kathy Behling, SC&A

After introductory remarks by Ms. Beach, Subcommittee Chair, Ms. Kathy Behling, SC&A presented a detailed summary of the Subcommittee’s review of the first three of the following documents. Dr. Steve Ostrow, SC&A, presented a detailed summary of the Subcommittee’s review of the fourth.

- DCAS-PER-042, rev. 0, “Linde Ceramics Plant TBD Revision”
- DCAS-PER-055, rev. 0, “TBD-6000 Revision”
- ORAU-RPRT-0078, rev. 00, “Technical Basis for Sampling Plan”
- ORAUT-OTIB-0054, rev. 01, Fission and Activation Product Assignment for Internal Dose-Related Gross Beta and Gross Gamma Analyses

After each presentation the Board agreed to close the review of these documents

SEC Petition Status Update – Mr. Chuck Nelson, DCAS

At the last Board meeting Mr. Nelson reported that DCAS had received an SEC petition for Thule Air Force Base in Greenland, which was not on the covered facility list. DCAS sent that petition to DOE and DOL, and both determined that Thule was not a covered facility, so that petition did not qualify for evaluation. One petition is undergoing evaluation, SEC-221 for Lawrence Livermore National Lab for the years 1990 to 1995. DCAS and ORAU staff visited Sandia in January and conducted staff interviews. An Evaluation Report addendum to cover the years 1990 to 1995 is being prepared. Ten petitions are under Board consideration. They are SEC-057 for Hanford, SEC-0103 for Savannah River, SEC-0109 for Los Alamos National Lab, SEC-0219 for Idaho National Lab, SEC-0224 for Argonne National Lab West, SEC-0235 for Area IV Santa Susanna, SEC-0236 for Metals & Controls, SEC-0246 for DeSoto Avenue Facility, SEC-0250 for the Y-12 Plant, and SEC-0256 for the Pinellas Plant. Mr. Nelson presented recent activities associated with each of these. DCAS is considering a possible SEC for the AWE period of West Valley Demonstration Project, 1966-1968. Two petitions are being reviewed to determine if they qualify for evaluation. One is Petition SEC-263 for the remediation period at Weldon Spring and the other is Petition SEC-264 for the Missouri University Research Reactor (MURR). MURR is not currently on the covered facilities list, so that petition has been forwarded to DOE and DOL to determine if it should be added.

TBD-6000 Work Group Update – Dr. Paul Ziemer, WG Chair

Dr. Ziemer provided the background for the TBD-6000 Work Group for the benefit of members who have not been on the Board very long. TBD-6000 is a technical document that gives guidance for performing dose reconstructions at Atomic Weapons Employers (AWEs) who worked with uranium metal. In addition to its main body of general information, TBD-6000 has several appendices that address specific information from a number of these AWEs. The Work Group met in February and discussed the status of SC&A’s review of the appendix relating to Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply. Dr. Ziemer

provided a summary of Joslyn's work for the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission. SC&A's review of the Joslyn appendix resulted in seven findings. At the time of the February meeting, DCAS had responded to one of the seven. At the meeting, the Work Group decided that SC&A should revisit the findings matrix to determine if anything should change in light of program activities since the findings were first generated, and they would evaluate DCAS's response to Finding 1. DCAS will prepare responses for the remaining six findings.

Metals & Controls (M&C) Corp SEC Petition #00236 (Attleboro MA; January 1968-March 1999 – Ms. Josie Beach, WG Chair, Dr. Brant Ulsh, DCAS, and Petitioner

Ms. Beach presented the chronology of the Work Group's deliberations on SEC Petition-00236, which covers workers during the residual contamination period, and summarized those deliberations. She noted that, as a result of worker interviews that were performed over the course of the Work Group's deliberations, DCAS had developed several exposure models to estimate doses resulting from different tasks. However, the Work Group did not concur that all the models were adequate to provide a sufficiently accurate estimate of worker exposures. A key point of her presentation was that the model for estimating doses resulting from intrusive subsurface work relied on a few contamination measurements that were collected in September 1995. The Work Group was not convinced that that data was sufficiently informative about what contamination levels were from 1968 through up until the date of those measurements. Consequently, at its December 2023 meeting the Work Group voted to recommend to the Board that it recommend adding an SEC class for workers at Metals & Controls from January 1, 1968, to September 21, 1995.

Following Ms. Beach's presentation, Dr. Brant Ulsh, DCAS presented DCAS's view of the Metals & Controls deliberations. DCAS's Evaluation Report for SEC Petition-00236 concluded that dose reconstruction was feasible at Metals & Controls, and in 2020, SC&A had expressed agreement with that. The Work Group, however, did not concur and asked SC&A for more analysis. This later analysis, published in January 2024 concluded that DCAS's dose model for intrusive subsurface work was not necessarily a bounding estimate for that work. Dr. Ulsh addressed the contentious issues from the Work Group's deliberation and pointed out that, for some other sites, the Board has agreed with approaches that used contamination measurements from late in residual contamination periods to inform contamination levels throughout the residual contamination period. DCAS was still convinced that doses at Metals & Controls could be reconstructed with sufficient accuracy.

The petitioner for Petition-00236 also addressed the Board. He was an employee at the Metals & Controls site and was involved in the decontamination and decommissioning of the contaminated parts of the facility. He provided the basis for his belief that doses could not be reliably reconstructed at the site.

Following extensive discussion among Board members, DCAS staff, and SC&A staff, the Board voted to recommend adding an SEC class for all Metals & Controls workers from January 1, 1968, to September 21, 1995. The vote in favor of the class was 7 for and 2 against, with 2 members absent at the time of the vote.

Public Comment

Members of the public provided comments related to Metals & Controls, the Pinellas Plant, and a perception that DCAS is no longer receptive to worker accounts.

Board Work Session

Dr. Anderson introduced Maliah Holsberger, HHS attorney who has recently been assigned to advise on the EEOICPA Program. Dr. Lockey urged the Board to remember the need for transparency in its deliberations in light of the change in SC&A's position on the SEC petition for Metals & Controls. He wondered if the Board's transcripts supported the change. Dr. Anderson reported that the Board's letter recommending an SEC class at Materials and Controls will be addressed at the Board's June telephone meeting. In terms of future meetings, telephone meetings are scheduled for June and October, and longer, regular meetings are scheduled for August and December. Plans are to hold the August meeting, scheduled for the 7th and 8th, in-person, and after some discussion the Board decided to meet in Idaho Falls. The Board then scheduled a telephone meeting for February 12, 2025, and a full meeting for April 23 and 24, 2025. Several Subcommittee and Work Group chairs described recent activities and future plans. Next Dr. Roberts summarized the public comments from the Board's December meeting. She also reported that the Board's charter has been renewed until September 2025, and reminded Board members that they are due to take CDC's annual Security Awareness Training.

Meeting Adjourned

Dr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm.