

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
Subcommittee for Procedure Reviews (SPR)
Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026

Summary Proceedings

The Subcommittee for Procedure Reviews meeting convened via teleconference at 11:10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), with Ms. Josie Beach, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Josie Beach, Chair
Loretta Valerio, Member
Arthur Frank, Member

Non-Members

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Official (DFO)
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Ron Buchanan, SC&A
John Cardarelli, NIOSH
Nancy Chalmers, Oak Ridge Associated Universities Team (ORAUT)
Madeline Cook, NIOSH
Malia Holzberger, Department of Health and Human Services
Amy Mangel, SC&A
Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH
Maisha Murry, NIOSH
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
LaVon Rutherford, NIOSH
Scott Siebert, ORAUT
Brant Ullsh, NIOSH

Registered Members of the Public

Denise DeGarmo
Ken Silver
Mike Schmoltdt

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Subcommittee for Procedure Reviews at 11:10 a.m. EST on January 28, 2026, via teleconference. A Subcommittee membership roll call confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Subcommittee members, federal staff, and contractors announced conflicts of interest during roll call. Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Ms. Beach, Subcommittee Chair. Ms. Beach noted that the agenda was very full and the meeting needed to end at 4:30, but she wanted to reserve the last 30-45 minutes to plan the Subcommittee's presentation for the next full Board meeting.

Administrative Items

SPR-Approved Documents for Next Board Meeting

Kathy Behling, SC&A, recommended to the Subcommittee that their report of completed reviews to the full Board in December should include five or six documents. The five documents that she recommended are: OTIB-0019 Rev. 01, PROC 0095 Rev. 00, PROC-0065 Rev. 00 PC-1, PROC-0094 Rev. 00, and PER-047 Rev. 0. She also suggested that OTIB-0052 Rev. 01 be included based on the responses that DCAS has submitted for this meeting. The Subcommittee agreed with Ms. Behling's recommendation that these six documents be presented at the April full Board meeting.

Discussion of Professional Judgment Assessment of Six Procedures Review-Approved Documents for next Board meeting

During Ms. Behling's presentation of OTIB-0017 at the December 2024 Board meeting, she suggested that it might be useful for SC&A to assess professional judgement issues that were raised in several of their reviews. The Board was favorably inclined, so at today's meeting the Subcommittee tasked SC&A to complete such an assessment.

List of Documents Awaiting NIOSH Response

Ms. Behling reported that DCAS is preparing some type of response to 58 documents. There are 145 findings and 107 observations associated with those documents. Of those, 23 had a status of "open," 145 had a status of "in progress," 79 had a status of "in abeyance," and 5 had a status of "transferred." The program is now utilizing a new Board Review System (BRS), replacing the one that was discontinued because of the Cybersecurity Modernization Initiative. SC&A is still working to populate the new BRS with actions that were completed while neither version of the BRS was operational. Ms.

Behling will notify DCAS when the new system has been fully populated. DCAS is ready to add additional responses at that time.

Carry Over Items from March 14, 2024, SPR Meeting

ORAUT-OTIB-0036 Rev. 00, “Internal Dosimetry Coworker Data for Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant”

Dr. Ron Buchanan, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s review of OTIB-0036. SC&A’s review of OTIB-0036 resulted in zero findings and one observation. The observation was that the urinalysis database that was used to generate the coworker model included data from 1989 to 1991, but DCAS has only developed coworker intake estimates through 1988. SC&A asked DCAS to explain why the final three years were not included.

Maddie Cook, DCAS, provided the response to SC&A’s observation at this point, rather than as item 3.c. in the agenda. At the time this document was prepared, 1988 was the final date data sets from several sites. 1988 became a default end date for coworker models. DCAS will include the additional years in the next revision to this document. The Subcommittee agreed that the status of this observation would be “in abeyance.”

ORAU-OTIB-0040 Rev 00 PC-1, “External Dosimetry Coworker Data for the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant”

Dr. Ron Buchanan, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s review of OTIB-0040. SC&A’s review of OTIB-0040 resulted in zero findings and two observations. One finding noted that OTIB-0040 referred to the wrong attachment of another technical document in the section on correcting for missed dose; the second finding was that OTIB-0040 did not provide a reference to support a statement about radiation effectiveness factors for different energies of radiation.

Maddie Cook, DCAS, provided DCAS’s response. DCAS concurs with the observations and will make appropriate changes in the next revision of the document. These responses, along with the response to the observation from OTIB-0036, have been entered into the new Board Review System. The Subcommittee determined that their status should be “in abeyance.”

NIOSH Responses to Board Questions and SC&A Review

ORAUT-RPRT-0071 Rev 00, “External Dose Coworker Methodology” (incorrectly labeled as OTIB-0071 in the agenda)

Dr. John Cardarelli, DCAS, presented DCAS’s response to the 10 observations from SC&A’s review of RPRT-0071. Dr. Cardarelli commented that the observations were beyond the scope of RPRT-0071 or were addressed in some fashion in other technical documents. Bob Barton, SC&A, replied that SC&A generally agreed with DCAS’s response but would provide more comprehensive comments at a later date.

ORAUT-OTIB-0052 Rev 00, “Parameters to Consider When Processing Claims for Construction Trades Workers”

Dr. Brant Ulsh, DCAS, provided DCAS’s responses to questions raised by Advisory Board members at its March 2013 meeting. The questions arose when the Procedure Reviews Subcommittee presented its closure of OTIB-0052 to the full Board. Dr. Tim Taulbee, DCAS, had prepared DCAS’s responses prior to his retirement last year.

OTIB-0052 states that, absent other site-specific information, dose reconstructions for construction trades workers that are derived from coworker models should be 1.4 times the doses derived for general site workers. Dr. Ulsh explained the development and use of the construction trades worker adjustment. Going forward, the Subcommittee will once again present OTIB-0052 to the full Board, and Dr. Ulsh will work with Kathy Behling, SC&A, to prepare for that.

Newly Issued SC&A Reviews

DCAS-PER-075 Rev 0, “Battelle Memorial Institute TBD Revision”

Amy Mangel, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s review of PER-075. Since they had not previously reviewed the Battelle site profile, SC&A reviewed that document as part of this task. SC&A’s review resulted in zero findings, but 17 observations. Broadly speaking, these observations were requests for additional information about how some specific guidance was developed, comments about lack of clarity in some guidance, and comments about some apparent inconsistencies in guidance. SC&A also identified selection criteria for choosing specific cases for them to evaluate in Task 4 of the Program Evaluation Review (PER) review. DCAS will work with SC&A to select a case or cases that meet those criteria. The observations from this review will be entered into the Board Review System, as will all findings and observations from SC&A reviews, to facilitate DCAS responses and future discussion.

DCAS-PER-040 Rev 0, “Mallinckrodt TBD Revisions”

Kathy Behling, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s Task 4 review of PER-040, which was performed by Dr. Ron Buchanan. Task 4 of a PER review is the review of selected cases (in this case 4 cases) that DCAS re-evaluated because of the guidance change that led to the PER. SC&A’s review resulted in one observation for one of the cases. That observation would not affect the outcome of the claim.

Scott Siebert, ORAU Team, provided a response to the observation. The observation points out an omitted geometry correction factor for two years of employment. Mr. Siebert conceded that this was a mistake but correcting the mistake had very little impact on the case’s probability of causation (POC). ORAU Team has reviewed all other re-evaluated claims and has determined that the error was not made in any other re-evaluated case.

DCAS-PER-051 Rev 0 Subtask 4, “Weldon Spring Plant”

Dr. Ron Buchanan, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s Task 4 review of PER-051. SC&A’s review resulted in one finding and four observations. One observation was that the original dose reconstruction for one case used a method that was supposed to be an overestimating efficiency technique, but the re-evaluation of that case resulted in a higher dose using the claimant’s bioassay data. This raises the question of possible incorrect use of the overestimating efficiency technique. The Subcommittee decided that this should be a finding rather than an observation. The other finding was that an uncertainty correction factor was not used in a reconsidered case, resulting in a small error in the dose. The observations pointed to inconsistencies in how doses were estimated in the reconsidered cases.

DCAS-PER-083 Rev 0 Subtask 4, “Weldon Spring Plant”

Dr. Ron Buchanan, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s Task 4 review of PER-083. SC&A’s review resulted in zero findings and one observation. That observation was that there did not seem to be guidance on when to assign thorium intakes, as the assignment was inconsistent among one of the cases and its two re-evaluations.

ODCAS-PER-034 Rev 0, “Harshaw Chemical Company TBD Revision”

Dr. Ron Buchanan, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s review of PER-034. SC&A’s review resulted in zero findings and zero observations. Only 5 cases fit the criteria for re-evaluation by DCAS. SC&A recommended that one of those cases be selected for SC&A’s Task 4 review. DCAS will work with SC&A to select that case.

Newly Issued Guidance Documents and Supplemental Topics

Kathy Behling, SC&A, presented a list of technical documents that SC&A had not yet reviewed. However, during the ensuing discussion Subcommittee members and the staffs of DCAS and SC&A all recognized that there is a considerable backlog of work to be done in closing findings and observations that have already been generated. DCAS is particularly short-handed, having only 11 health physicists compared to full strength of 18. Consequently, it was agreed that DCAS and SC&A would discuss the existing backlog of work and propose a prioritization to the Subcommittee.

Meeting Adjourned

The Subcommittee tentatively selected Friday June 5, 2026, as the preferred date for the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m. EST.