

Centers for Disease Control
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
165th Meeting

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Summary Proceedings

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health meeting convened via teleconference at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), with Dr. Henry A. Anderson, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Henry A. Anderson, Chair
Josie Beach, Member
Frazier Bronson, Member
Bradley P. Clawson, Member
Arthur Frank, Member
James E. Lockey, Member
Nicole Martinez, Member
David Pompa, Member
Michael Schmoldt, Member
Kenneth Silver, Member
Loretta Valerio, Member
Faye Vlieger, Member
Paul Ziemer, Member

Non-Members, Registered and/or Public Comment Participants

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Nancy Adams, NIOSH Contractor
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Ron Buchanan, SC&A
John Cardarelli, NIOSH
Madeline Cook, NIOSH
Denise DeGarmo, Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) petitioner

Andrew Evaskovich, SEC petitioner
Rose Gogliotti, SC&A
Emily Hanauer, Department of Labor (DOL)
Malia Holzberger, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Lara Hughes, NIOSH
Greg Lewis, Department of Energy (DOE)
Amy Mangel, SC&A
Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH
Chuck Nelson, NIOSH
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Rachel Pond, Department of Labor (DOL)
Mark Rolfes, NIOSH
LaVon Rutherford, NIOSH
Josh Silverman, DOE
Brant Ulsh, NIOSH

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (the Board) Teams teleconference at 10:00 a.m. EDT on April 29, 2026. A roll call confirmed that a quorum of Board members was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Board members, federal staff and contractors announced conflicts of interest during the roll call. Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Dr. Anderson, Board Chair. He introduced Lori Marion-Moss, the Acting Director of the Division of Compensation Analysis and Support (DCAS).

Program Updates: NIOSH, DOL, DOE

Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH, Rachel Pond, DOL, and Greg Lewis, DOE, gave updates of each organization's activities for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and responded to Board member questions. The updates included staffing changes, statistics on claim processing and compensation dollars paid, site research activities, and worker outreach activities. The NIOSH report included information about the status of the dose reconstruction subcontract, which is currently held by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities Team (ORAUT).

Argonne National Lab West (ANL-W)/Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Work Group (WG) Update – Dr. Paul Ziemer, WG Chair and Dr. Steve Ostrow, SC&A

Board member Brad Clawson, who is conflicted at ANL-W/INL, disengaged from the meeting for this discussion.

Dr. Ziemer introduced this topic by saying that Argonne National Lab West and Idaho National Laboratory were originally two different sites but were combined about 2010. Consequently, the WG bears the name of both sites. He identified the other WG members as Dr. Anderson and Ms. Beach, and the main supporting staff as Dr. Megan Lobaugh from NIOSH and Dr. Steve Ostrow from SC&A. He then turned the floor over to Dr. Ostrow.

Dr. Ostrow presented the results of SC&A's review of ORAUT-RPRT-0099. ORAUT-RPRT-0099 evaluated two ANL-W/INL reactors to determine the applicability of dose reconstruction techniques in ORAUT-OTIB-0054, "Fission and Activation Product Assignment for Internal Dose-Related Gross Beta and Gross Gamma Analyses." The two reactors that were evaluated were the Experimental Breeder Reactor II (EBR-II) and the Boiling Water Reactor Experiment IV (BORAX-IV). NIOSH published ORAUT-RPRT-0099 because SC&A had previously questioned whether the experimental reactors at ANL-W/INL fit the categories of reactors described in ORAUT-OTIB-0054. EBR-II and BORAX-IV are two of six "high priority" reactors that SC&A had raised this question about. The results of SC&A's review of ORAUT-RPRT-0099 are that the techniques in ORAUT-OTIB-0054 are, in fact, applicable to EBR-II and BORAX-IV.

During the subsequent discussion, WG member Ms. Beach noted that a recent status update from Dr. Lobaugh reported that work on the analysis of the other “high priority” reactors against ORAUT-OTIB-0054 has been paused because of other higher priority program activities. Ms. Beach commented that the WG has been waiting for some time for resolutions to issues about the INL Burial Ground, and those are not scheduled to be completed until after the analysis of the remaining “high priority” reactors and the preparation of a revised site profile. Since the evaluation of the remaining reactors has been paused, there is no way to estimate when work will continue for remaining issues.

Savannah River Site (SRS) Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition #103 (Aiken, South Carolina, October 1, 1972 – December 30, 2007) – Brad Clawson, WG Chair

Board member Nicole Martinez, who is conflicted at SRS, disengaged from the meeting for this discussion. Board member Clawson rejoined the meeting.

Mr. Clawson presented the results of the Savannah River Site Workgroup’s (SRS WG’s) deliberations on SEC Petition 103. An SEC class of subcontractor construction trades workers has previously been added for the years 1972-1990. The WG’s recent discussion has concerned determining if that class should be extended to later years. Internal exposures for these workers were generally monitored by job-specific bioassays, rather than the routine bioassay program. When Westinghouse took over as prime contractor in 1988, it began a series of radiological improvements. Among the improvements initiated by Westinghouse was the 1992 implementation of proceduralized job-specific bioassays based on radiation work permits. While this procedure was developed in 1992, the Workgroup concluded that it took some time for the process to be fully implemented. Consequently, the WG recommended extending the SEC class to include the period January 1, 1991, to December 31, 1993.

Next, Dr. John Cardarelli, NIOSH, presented the reasons why NIOSH believes that dose reconstructions are feasible after December 31, 1990, and so there is no need to extend the existing SEC class. Dr. Cardarelli presented information about the very large amount of bioassay data that is available from SRS, the fact that there is considerable bioassay data for construction trades workers, a plot that showed that bioassay data for monitored subcontract construction trades workers does not differ from other monitored workers, and that the average doses to SRS workers during the period under evaluation were well below 100 millirem.

A robust Board discussion followed. The discussion covered whether the Board should consider public policy in reaching a recommendation, whether worker health was endangered at the levels of exposure that likely occurred, what is the impact of the missing job-specific bioassay data during the early 1990s, and whether timeliness should be a consideration, given the considerable amount of time that the SEC petition has been under consideration. Following the discussion the Board voted 9 to 3 to add an SEC class for subcontractor construction trades workers at SRS from January 1, 1991, through December 31, 1993.

Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Petition Status Update – Dr. Lara Hughes, DCAS

Board member Martinez rejoined the meeting.

Dr. Hughes presented statistics about the SEC Petitions that have been submitted to date, then described the status of recent petitions. NIOSH determined that SEC Petition 266 for Weldon Spring did not qualify for evaluation, and the administrative review panel confirmed NIOSH's decision. SEC Petition 267 for United Nuclear Corporation is being evaluated by NIOSH. She then described the status of the petitions that are currently with the Board.

Procedure Reviews Finalization/Document Approvals – Josie Beach, Subcommittee Chair, and Kathy Behling, SC&A

Ms. Behling presented the results of Subcommittee's review, including the subsequent closure of findings and observations for the following technical documents:

- ORAUT-PROC-0095, rev. 00, "Generating Summary Statistics for Co-Worker Bioassay Data"
- ORAUT-OTIB-0019, rev. 01, "Analysis of Co-Worker Bioassay Data for Internal Dose Assessment"
- ORAUT-PROC-0065, rev. 00, PC-1, "Internal Finding and Corrective Action to Prevent Recurrence"
- ORAUT-PROC-0094, rev. 00, "Verification and Validation Process for the Tools Development Group"
- DCAS-PER-047, rev. 0, "Grand Junction Operations Office"

Following each presentation, the Board accepted the Subcommittee's recommended closure of these reviews.

Dr. Brant Ulsh, NIOSH, then presented NIOSH's responses to 8 questions the Board had raised when the Subcommittee presented its review of ORAUT-OTIB-0052 in December 2017. After discussion, the Board accepted these responses and closed the review of ORAUT-OTIB-0052.

Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) Workgroup (WG) – Dr. Henry Anderson, WG Chair and Bob Barton, SC&A

Bob Barton, SC&A presented SC&A's comments following their review of NIOSH's White Paper, "A Discussion of Completeness in Co-Exposure Models." NIOSH reached 7 conclusions in that White Paper. Among those conclusions were the need for the site monitoring data to include data from a majority of the most highly exposed workers, that a qualitative assessment of the site's radiation protection program and its implementations was needed to draw conclusions about the quality of the monitoring

data, that it is not possible to develop a quantitative test for completeness to apply to all sites. SC&A generally agreed with the conclusions that NIOSH had reached and emphasized that DCAS Implementation Guide DCAS-IG-006 “Criteria for the Evaluation and Use of Co-Exposure Datasets,” should be the guiding document in developing co-exposure models.

Drs. Brant Ulsh and Lara Hughes, NIOSH, presented “Data Completeness and Co-Exposure Models”. Topics included: (1) how co-exposure models are constructed; (2) SEC vs. co-exposure model development; (3) data completeness; (4) the effects of incomplete data sets; (5) the proper evaluation of regulatory compliance; and (6) the status of site-specific co-exposure models.

Board members did express some concern about the amount of time that it has taken to develop co-exposure models in compliance with DCAS-IG-006. This discussion continued after the Public Comment Period with a discussion of the utility of compiling a list of SECs and the bases for recommending them. LaVon Rutherford, NIOSH, commented that such a list was compiled early on in the program, but computer modernization and other issues interrupted that project. It may be possible to find the last iteration of that list and proceed from there.

Public Comment

Members of the public commented that virtual meetings did not give assurance that members were attentive to public and petitioner comments, particularly when attendees turn off their cameras. They also were critical of what they see as a lack of transparency in the program, along with the extended amount of time it takes to reach a decision on issues, and some of the techniques that the program employs.

Board Work Session

At Dr. Roberts’s suggestion, the four new Board members introduced themselves and described their backgrounds. Steve Ostrow, SC&A, provided a summary of recent work related to the Pinellas Plant. The Board intends to meet in person near the site of the former Pinellas Plant in August 2026. Dr. Roberts and the Board then identified likely topics for the August agenda.

Plans for Future Board Meetings – Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Roberts reminded Board members of upcoming full board meetings on August 26 and 27 and December 2 and 3, as well as a teleconference on October 8. Dr. Roberts and the Board next scheduled a teleconference for February 19, 2027, and a full board meeting for April 28 and 29, 2027. Dr. Roberts then reviewed the public comments from the December 2024 Board meeting, which was the last meeting with a public comment period.

Meeting Adjourned

Following a motion, Dr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.