

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human
Services

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Board on Radiation and
Worker Health

3b. GSA

Committee No.

10766

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

No 03/22/2022 03/22/2024

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Presidential

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Sec. 3624 of P.L. 106-398
and Sec. 4 of EO 14109; 42
U.S.C. §7384o

13. Effective Date

10/30/2000 Continuing

14. Committee Type

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program
Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

17b. Closed

17c. Partially Closed

Other Activities

17d. Total

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH) addresses its statutory responsibilities by holding regular scheduled public meetings to provide consensus review and recommendations on the scientific validity and quality of the agency's completed radiation dose reconstructions for adjudication of cancer-related compensation claims and upon request by the Secretary, HHS; advise the Secretary on whether there is a class of employees at any DOE facility who were exposed to radiation but for whom it is

not feasible to estimate their radiation dose; and on whether there is reasonable likelihood that such radiation dose may have endangered the health of members of the class.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

As required by statute, the membership of the ABRWH is made up of scientific, medical, and worker perspectives. The President appoints the members to the ABRWH.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The ABRWH was established in 2002 and meets 6 times annually. In 2023, the ABRWH met 2 times virtually, 3 times by teleconference, and 1 time in-person. The ABRWH also has two subcommittees, the Subcommittee for Dose Reconstruction Review (2003) and the Subcommittee on Procedure Review (2009), which meet 2-4 times annually (each). The Board has 27 workgroups and a subset of these groups meet between 1 to 3 times per year. A total of 11 meetings were held in FY23 including 6 full Board meetings, 2 subcommittee meetings, and 3 workgroup meetings.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The ABRWH is required by statute under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) of 2000.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The ABRWH does not have closed workgroup, subcommittee or full board meetings.

21. Remarks

The Board does not produce any formal reports.
The ABRWH held a two-day meeting on April 19-20, 2023. Note that ABRWH member, Philip Schofield, resigned on September 30, 2022.
Robert Field is deceased.

Designated Federal Officer

Rashaun Roberts Public Health Analyst

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Anderson, Henry	10/15/2009	09/30/2024	Wisconsin Division of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Beach, M.	01/24/2007	09/30/2024	CH2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cassano, Victoria	08/01/2022	09/30/2024	President and Chief Executive Officer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Clawson, Bradley	02/07/2006	09/30/2024	Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Frank, Arthur	08/01/2022	09/30/2024	Professor of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kotelchuck, David	02/29/2012	09/30/2024	Hunter College School of Health Sciences	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lockey, James	02/07/2006	09/30/2024	University of Cincinnati	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Martinez, Nicole	08/01/2022	09/30/2024	Associate Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Pompa, David	08/24/2022	09/30/2024	Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Roessler, Genevieve	08/02/2001	09/30/2024	Consultant, Elysian, Minnesota	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Valerio, Carmela	02/29/2012	09/30/2024	State of New Mexico/Environment Department	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ziemer, Paul	08/02/2001	09/30/2024	Retire	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 12

Narrative Description

The ABRWH, through its statutory responsibilities, provides an independent review of the scientific quality and validity of the NIOSH radiation dose reconstructions for adjudication of Federal cancer-related compensation claims under Part B of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act. The ABRWH also provides independent recommendations to the Secretary, HHS on the addition of classes of employees at nuclear weapons production and testing sites to the Special Exposure Cohort, a designation that allows for presumptive compensation for employees with cancer claims determined by DOL to be eligible members of these classes.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety

☐

Trust in government

☒

Major policy changes

☐

Advance in scientific research

☐

Effective grant making

☐

Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Provides independent policy advice, scientific and technical peer review, and transparency for public stakeholders of a complex technical process which without the ABRWH would be difficult if not impossible for the agency to achieve.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

167

Number of Recommendations Comments

Recommendations tracked here address adding or denying the addition of classes to the Special Exposure Cohort Petitions, a statutory charge under EEOICPA. As discussed below, the Board makes other recommendations associated with its reviews of the validity and quality of dose reconstructions that cannot be tracked quantitatively. Also, the Board has made recommendations on all of the regulatory actions taken by HHS under EEOICPA. The Board has made a total of 167 recommendations on SEC petitions since its inception, none in FY23.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

98%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Two recommendations were reversed by the Secretary subsequent to their approval by the Secretary based on appeals, as discussed below.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

2%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

In 2015, the Secretary reversed the HHS decision implementing one Board recommendation (Hooker Electrochemical Corp.) two years after its implementation. In 2016, the Secretary reversed the HHS decision implementing one Board recommendation (Pantex Plant) two years after its implementation.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The agency provides feedback by correspondence and verbal direction from the DFO/Executive Secretary to the Board. In addition, the public can obtain information from documents and meeting minutes posted on the NIOSH website.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NIOSH has made revisions to a large number of dose reconstruction procedures (site specific and generic) as a result of recommendations/peer review comments and related deliberation of Board Subcommittees and work groups. Regulations in prior years were developed based in part on Board review and comment.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

This is not a grant review committee.

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Documents, minutes, and meeting transcripts of the Board, its subcommittees and work groups are all posted on the Agency Web site, including reports and analyses produced by the Board's technical support contractor and reports produced by NIOSH at the request of the Board.