

PROVISIONAL

To be discussed at the August 17-18, 2005 Board meeting

Scope of Work for VBDR Subcommittees

The following VBDR subcommittees composed of Board members and technical consultants will be appointed:

SC1: Subcommittee on DTRA Dose Reconstruction Procedures

Purpose:

This Subcommittee will serve to facilitate the work of VBDR by conducting random periodic audits of dose reconstructions and outcomes. The goal of the Subcommittee's work will be to verify the scientific validity and quality of the dose reconstruction procedures through reviews of a suitably large sample of randomly selected dose reconstructions performed by NTPR's contractor organizations. This activity will meet a requirement of item (3) (A) in Section 601 of Public Law 108-183.

Membership:

The Subcommittee on Dose Reconstruction will consist of a chair (Harold Beck), and three other members of the VBDR (Paul Blake (DTRA liaison), Paul Voilleque, and Gary Zeman).

Function:

The Subcommittee will perform the following tasks:

1. Audit dose reconstruction procedures (including revisions) used by NTPR contractors. These will include the procedures for determining exposure scenarios, the technical procedures for reconstructing doses, and related documentation (such as Standard Operating Procedures, NTPR methodology reports and NTPR directives).
2. Audit a random sample of DTRA dose reconstructions to assure correct procedures are being followed and to ascertain the quality of reported doses and associated uncertainty estimates.
3. Prepare a summary of the Subcommittee's findings and recommendations for Board consideration and approval.

SC2: Subcommittee on VA Claims Adjudication Procedures

Purpose:

This Subcommittee will perform random audits of the VA claims evaluation procedures and decisions on claims for radiogenic and nonradiogenic diseases. The audit procedures will include evaluation of the methods used for adjudication of claims and the scientific validity of decisions made on a suitably large number of randomly selected claims. This activity will meet a requirement of item (3) (A) in Section 601 of Public Law 108-183.

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Membership:

The Subcommittee for VA claims adjudication procedures will consist of a chair (Ronald Blanck) and two other members of the VBDR (Thomas Pamperin (VA liaison), and James Zimble).

Function:

The subcommittee will perform the following tasks related to the VA's claims adjudication procedures:

1. Audit VA claims processing procedures, including interactions with VA Regional Offices, with the veterans filing claims, and with NTPR on dose reconstruction requirements and results. The Subcommittee will also review the use of probability of cancer causation tables in the decision process.
2. Prepare a summary of the Subcommittee's findings and recommendations for Board consideration and approval.

SC3: Subcommittee on Quality Management and VA Process Integration with DTRA Nuclear Test Personnel Review Program

Purpose:

This Subcommittee will review all aspects of quality management in the dose reconstruction and claims adjudication procedures used by NTPR and VA, respectively. The Subcommittee will also provide recommendations on the integration of work performed by NTPR and VA to facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive quality management program that encompasses all components of the dose reconstruction and claims compensation programs.

Membership:

The Subcommittee for quality management and VA/NTPR process integration will consist of a chair (Curt Reimann) and three other members of the VBDR (John Lathrop, David McCurdy, and Kristin Swenson).

Function:

The Subcommittee is charged to perform the following tasks related to quality management and VA/NTPR process integration:

1. Review all documented operating procedures and quality assurance processes related to dose reconstructions, interactions between VA and NTPR, communications with veterans, and communication with military services.
2. Coordinate relevant tasks and approaches of the four Subcommittees

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3. Provide recommendations on achieving a system-wide coordination and integration of procedures that are currently carried out separately by VA and NTPR, with the goal of achieving a uniform quality management program for all aspects of the dose reconstruction and claims adjudication procedures.
4. Prepare a summary of the Subcommittee's findings and recommendations for Board consideration and approval.

SC4: Subcommittee on Communication with and About Atomic Veterans

Purpose:

This Subcommittee will review the current communication procedures of VA and DTRA with the veterans on matters related to dose reconstruction and claims adjudication. The Subcommittee will provide recommendations on improved communication mechanisms with veterans throughout the process of collecting information related to their claims and informing them of the outcome of the claims adjudication process. This activity will meet a requirement of item (3) (B) in Section 601 of Public Law 108-183.

Membership:

The Subcommittee for communication with the veterans will consist of a chair (Kenneth Groves) and three other members of the VBDR (John Boice, Ed Taylor, John Lathrop, and Elaine Vaughan).

Function:

The Subcommittee is charged to perform the following tasks related to communication with the veterans:

1. Review the current mechanisms for communicating with veterans to establish exposure scenarios and to inform them of decisions on claims of adverse health effects related to exposure to radiation from atomic weapons during their military service.
2. The Subcommittee will develop a set of recommendations on more efficient and effective communication procedures between veterans, the VA, and DTRA.
3. Prepare a summary of the Subcommittee's findings and recommendations for Board consideration and approval.