

VBDR

Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 22, 2006

VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD ON DOSE RECONSTRUCTION MET IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

BETHESDA, MD—Moving ahead with recommendations to improve the dose reconstruction and the compensation program for veterans, the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) held its fourth meeting in Hampton, VA., on Nov. 8-9, 2006.

The Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) was established by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at the request of Congress to provide guidance and oversight of the dose reconstruction process and claims compensation program for veterans of the 1945-1946 occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and veterans of U.S. sponsored atmospheric nuclear weapons tests from 1945 to 1962. The board's primary goal is to improve the processing of claims for medical benefits and other compensation, and to assist VA and DTRA in communicating with veterans.

The two-day meeting included briefings on other radiation exposure compensation programs for veterans and workers, and a briefing on activities and actions of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards, followed by the board's four subcommittee chairs briefing on their activities and findings.

During the meeting, three veterans gave public testimony regarding their cancers and expressed concerns about problems with the dose reconstruction procedures and claims decisions made by the VA.

Among the board's accomplishments at the November meeting was the nomination of two candidates for VBDR membership. Risk communication expert, Mr. David Ropeik was selected to replace Dr. Elaine Vaughan, and Mr. R.J. Ritter was nominated to serve as an additional atomic veteran.

The Board plans to hold its fifth meeting in March 2007 in Las Vegas, NV. Meeting locations and dates will be announced at a later date.

Visit the VBDR website at www.vbdr.org or contact toll-free at 1-866-657-VBDR (8237).

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