

VBDR

Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VBDR Addresses Improvements for Claims Processing and Dose Reconstruction on Behalf of Veterans

BETHESDA, Md.—The Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) made further advancements in support of veterans through recommendations and enhancements to the dose reconstruction and claims processes during its seventh public meeting in San Diego, Calif., April 2-3, 2008.

The meeting included briefings on “Activities of Atomic-Bomb Survivors (HIBAKUSHA) Health Care Committee Based on HIBAKUSHA Protection Law;” and “Department of Veterans Affairs Quality Review of the Radiation Claims.” In addition, the Board discussed current activities of the Nuclear Test Personnel Review dose reconstruction and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) radiation claims compensation programs, as well as the actions and accomplishments of the four VBDR subcommittees.

During the meeting, eight veterans gave public testimony regarding their cancers and other debilitating illnesses they believe result from participation in atmospheric nuclear testing. They also discussed problems with claims decisions made by the VA.

The Board plans to hold its eighth meeting in Sept. 2008 in Washington, DC area, to continue its focus on improvements to the dose reconstruction and claims processes. Meeting locations and dates will be announced at a later date.

About the VBDR

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the VA established the VBDR 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 1945-1962. The Board's primary goal is to improve the processing of claims for medical benefits and other compensation, and to assist the VA and DTRA in communicating with veterans.

For additional information contact the VBDR at 1-866-657-VBDR (8237), or visit the VBDR website at www.vbdr.org.

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