

## **VBDR Plenary Meeting March 23-24, 2012**

### **VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD ON DOSE RECONSTRUCTION (VBDR) TO MEET**

San Antonio, TX—The Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) will meet March 23-24, 2012, at the Embassy Suites San Antonio Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX. The meetings are free and open to the public. All interested persons are encouraged to attend; advance registration is not necessary.

The VBDR is a Congressionally-directed Federal Advisory Committee that examines the dose reconstruction procedures used by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the Department of Defense and claims procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Board makes recommendations to DTRA to improve the scientific accuracy of the Atomic Veteran's ionizing radiation dose reconstructions, and to VA on administrative improvements to reduce the time required to adjudicate an Atomic Veteran's claim for service-related treatment and compensation. Atomic Veterans are defined by Public Law (PL 108-183) as individuals who served in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, as occupation troops at the end of the Second World War or in POW camps near those two cities, or as participants in the U.S. above ground nuclear test program, which ended in 1962. Recently, the Board was also asked to review the dose reconstruction procedures used by the Navy to assess personnel stationed near the McMurdo Sound nuclear reactor and the DoD active duty service members, civilian and contract employees, and dependents in and around Japan during the Fukushima Daiichi incident that resulted from the earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011.

On Friday, March 23, 2012, registration will commence at 7:30 a.m. and the meeting will adjourn at 6:00 p.m. The Board will hear a series of technical presentations focused on epidemiology and dose-reconstruction efforts, discussions on the VA claims process and an overview of communications programs designed to inform veterans. Specific talks include: a review of the Atomic Veterans Epidemiology Study; discussion on Atomic Veterans Demographics; review of the Navy's PM-3A (McMurdo Sound Nuclear Reactor) Dose Assessment Effort; review of the DoD Population of Interest Dose Reconstruction from the Fukushima incident in Japan; update on the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Dose Reconstruction Program; update on VA's Radiation Claims Program; presentation on the VA/DTRA/VBDR Atomic Veterans Communications Plan; overview of the VA's Office of Public Health; briefings by VBDR Subcommittee Chairs; and, a public comment session.

On Saturday, March 24, 2012, the meeting will commence at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at noon. The meeting will begin with an introduction to the Special Session, followed by a public comment session, and conclude with a panel composed of VA representatives from Atomic Veterans Centralized Claims Processing Center in Jackson, MS, the San Antonio Veterans Medical Center, and VA's Compensation Service to discuss issues that impact Atomic Veterans' claims submission issues. Representatives from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Nuclear Test Personnel Review program will also be available to advise Atomic Veterans on the dose reconstruction program and records they hold to support the Atomic Veterans claim process.

Please submit written statements or questions prior to the meeting via email at [aa@vbdr.org](mailto:aa@vbdr.org), or by phone, toll-free at 1-866-657-VBDR (8237). Please visit [www.VBDR.org](http://www.VBDR.org) for more information.