

A Briefing on Activities and Actions of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards



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VACEH



- **Congressionally Mandated Committee**
Public Law 98-542 (1984)
- **Originally Dioxin and Radiation**
- **6 Scientific Members; 3 Veterans Advocates**
- **Meet 2-3 Times a Year**
- **Open To The Public**

VACEH



- Advises the VA on Any New Science that Would Affect the VA Compensation Program
- Does Not Adjudicate Individual Cases
- Reviews A Summary of Recent VA Decisions
- Not A Policy Making Body
- Work In The Context of Compassionate Compensation

VACEH Scientific Members



- Theodore Colton, Sc.D.
- Edward R. Epp, Ph.D.
- Nancy L. Oleinick, Ph.D.
- Amir H. Soas, M.D., Ph.D.
- Mary Ann Stevenson, M.D., Ph.D.
- Henry D. Royal, M.D.

VACEH Public Members



- **George N. Hunt**
Director of Veterans Service,
Moore County North Carolina
- **Shannon L. Middleton**
American Legion
Washington DC
- **Mary V. StremLOW, USMCR (Ret)**
Lake View, NY

Presumptive Groups



- Approximately 195,000 participants in occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Approximately 210,000 mostly military members are confirmed as participants in U.S. atmospheric nuclear weapons tests between 1945 and 1962 in the United States and the Pacific and Atlantic oceans prior to the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty.

Presumptive Diseases

1. Bile Ducts
2. Bone
3. Brain
4. Breast
5. Colon
6. Esophagus
7. Gall bladder
8. Leukemia
9. Liver
10. Lung
11. Multiple Myeloma
12. Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
13. Ovary
14. Pancreas
15. Pharynx
16. Renal
17. Salivary
18. Small Intestine
19. Stomach
20. Thyroid
21. Urinary Bladder

Presumptive Diseases



Missing Cancers

Skin

Prostate

Compassionate Compensation



- If You are a Member of a Presumptive Group and You have a Presumptive Disease, Your Illness is Classified as Service Connected.
- If You Are Not a Member of a Presumptive Group, Whether Your Disease Is Service Connected is Determined by Calculation of Probability of Causation

Probability of Causation



■ The Background Risk of Developing Cancer is High

Males

Incidence - 46%

Mortality - 28%

Females

Incidence - 38%

Mortality - 28%

■ Radiation is a Weak Carcinogen

Probability of Causation



- Dose
- Disease

Caused By Radiation

Caused By Radiation + Not Caused By Radiation

If 99th Percent Upper Confidence Interval Exceeds 50% POC Using 99th Percent Upper Confidence Interval Of Dose → Veteran Gets Compensated.

Issues



- **Credibility of Dose Reconstruction**
- **Administrative Costs**
- **All or Nothing**
- **Parity With Other Compensation Programs**



The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act

New Legislation to Compensate Affected Employees

by Ken Silver, DSc, SM

AAOHN Journal 2005; 53(6), 267-277.