

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 eighth public meeting in Linthicum, Md., Sept. 10-11, 2008.

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.

In addition, the Board discussed the future of the VBDR and ways to further assist veterans. Since its inception, both the VA and DTRA have decreased their backlog of cases and have instituted a more effective compensation system. The Board wants to continue to monitor their efforts and to increase outreach to veterans who are most likely to be eligible for compensation.

Five members of the public attended the meeting, and three spoke at the public comment session. They asked for information regarding dose reconstruction, benefits and the history of the nuclear testing program.

The Board plans to hold its ninth meeting in the summer of 2009 in the Washington, D.C., area, to continue its focus on improvements to the dose reconstruction and claims processes. The meeting location and date will be announced in the Federal Register in advance of the meeting.

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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