

VBDR

Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction



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May 30, 2012

The Honorable Allison A. Hickey
Under Secretary for Benefits (20)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Ms. Hickey:

The Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction met in a plenary public session in San Antonio, TX on March 23-24, 2012. At that meeting, the Board approved two recommendations that, if implemented, should help improve the VA compensation program for Atomic Veterans. These recommendations are based on analysis of audits and reviews of NTPR radiation dose assessments and VA claim procedures, as well as information and testimony presented at VBDR meetings. In addition, the Board would also like to acknowledge the dedication and enthusiasm of the VA staff supporting the Atomic Veterans, particularly the staff at the Jackson VARO.

I have enclosed the recommendations that have been approved by the Board at the San Antonio meeting. To properly close out these recommendations in compliance with Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements, we request you inform us of any actions taken. Thank you for your time and please feel free contact me if you require any additional information concerning these recommendations.

Very respectfully,

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Charles H. Roadman, II, M.D.
Lt. Gen., USAF, (Ret.)
VBDR Chairman

Enclosure: Formal VBDR recommendations

Cc: Mr. Brad Flohr
Dr. Paul Ciminera

**VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD ON DOSE RECONSTRUCTION
RECOMMENDATIONS**

23-24 March 2012

Plenary Meeting

On the basis of its audits and assessments of Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Program radiation dose assessments (RDAs), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claim procedures, and other meetings and interactions with both DTRA and VA, the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) offered two recommendations at the March 23-24, 2012 meeting held in San Antonio, TX. The Board believes that these recommendations, if put into action, would improve the VA compensation program for Atomic Veterans.

For the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA):

The VBDR had no specific recommendations for DTRA.

For the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

First, the VBDR continues to recognize the positive improvements that have taken place at the Jackson Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO).

Recommendation 1: VA move forward to implement a policy and process that radiation identified claims be expeditiously transferred to Jackson VARO at initial identification and prior to development.

Recommendation 2: VA resolves the issue of retrieving color photographs for claims adjudication and rating at the Jackson VARO.